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ON SATURDAY
No.19 February 27, 2010

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

The newspaper that's just 'SO' Tunbridge Wells www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk

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TAX RISES REVEALED

Councils keep increase to a minimum in bid to ensure services are unchanged

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

AFTER months of heated debate our councils have finally revealed their budgets for the coming year.

And while council tax rises will be low, the worst could be yet to come, they have warned.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council both finalised how money will be spent and where savings will be made in the coming financial year at meetings this week.

Residents can expect frontline services such as waste collections and planning to remain relatively unchanged, but future cuts have not been ruled out in the face of soaring national debt and a general election due in weeks.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council said it had agreed a "standstill" budget that would see no current services cut.

In Tunbridge Wells at a meeting on Wednesday night, the council agreed its lowest ever council tax increase of 2.49 per cent, which works out as an extra £3.53 a year for band D properties.

When added to increases agreed by Kent County Council (2.1 per cent), the police authority (2.99 per cent) and the fire service (2.86 per cent) the average household will be paying £1,254.41 plus charges towards town or parish councils.

Lee Colyer, the council's head of finance and governance, said £828,000 in savings had been found through restructuring, including three top level redundancies and more job losses below senior management due to be announced soon.

"We recognise that everyone else is feeling the pain of the downturn and the council does not think it is acceptable to raise its funds through high council tax, so we have had to look for savings elsewhere," he said.

He said the council was set to start charging for planning advice, so the service was funded by those who use it rather than everybody. Residents who pay using credit cards will also have to fork out for the administration fees.

In a move he admitted was a bit of a gamble, the council is discussing how to reduce its costs by getting all residents to avoid anti-social behaviour.

"Quite a lot of costs could be avoidable through peoples' lifestyle choices," he said. "If people don't graffiti we do not have to employ graffiti squads to remove it.

"The public can help us by not dropping litter for example. Let's love where we live."

Mr Colyer said no cuts had been made in frontline services: "Restructuring, delivering services through a lot more partnerships... the public has not had to feel a reduction in services yet."

He said the economic recovery was "very tentative" and could drop into recession again as the public sector curbs spending in the new financial year.

"We do not know how severe [public spending cuts will be]. We have prepared for a 30 per cent reduction in government grant, whoever forms the next government. There is a huge deficit," he said.

Cllr Brian Ramsay, Sevenoaks' cabinet

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Picture: DAN SMITH

CATWALK CRAZY

Tunbridge Wells Fashion Week pulled in the crowds this week as the latest high street hits took to the catwalk.

A series of plush shows were staged at the likes of Hoopers and the Brew House Hotel during the event.

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

IN TOMORROW'S ON SUNDAY

The newspaper that's just "50" Tunbridge Wells

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NEWS

- Why we'll all be paying more for our water bills.
- How the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver are proving a boost to business for one man.
- Latest twist in debate over homeopathy's role in medicine

SPORT

- In the first of a three-part series with motorsport legend John Surtees, we take a look at the ex-Formula One champion's early career which includes winning his first motorcycle race at 14.

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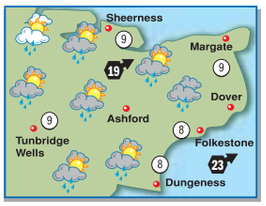

Today

A windy day. Today is going to start off rather wet and cloudy with outbreaks of drizzle and rain. This will gradually ease to leave it drier in the afternoon with the possibility of a few bright spells before sunset. There will be a fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

Sun & Moon

Sunrise	6.45am	Sunset	5.31pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	4.17pm	Moonset	5.53am	5.31pm to 6.43am

High Tides

	today		tomorrow	
	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	09.52 6.4	22.19 6.6	10.39 6.7	23.03 6.9
Margate	10.54 4.6	23.15 4.6	11.44 4.8	23.58 4.8
St Mary's	03.24 5.5	15.52 5.5	04.13 5.9	16.38 5.8

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	4	39	Edinburgh	sleet	5	41	Newcastle	rain	5	41
Belfast	sleet	5	41	Glasgow	sleet	5	41	Norwich	fair	8	46
B'ham	cloudy	7	45	Isle of Man	shwrs	7	45	Oxford	drizzle	8	46
B'mouth	shwrs	10	50	Leeds	sleet	5	41	Southsea	shwrs	9	48
Bristol	shwrs	8	46	London	drizzle	9	48	S'hampton	shwrs	9	48
Cardiff	cloudy	8	46	Liverpool	fair	6	43	Southport	fair	6	43
Cork	fair	6	43	Manchester	fair	7	45	Swansea	drizzle	7	45

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Taxpayers tough it out as councillors get set for pay hike

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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PUBLIC money campaign group the TaxPayers' Alliance has slammed moves by councils to hike up pay to councillors.

It has blasted the moves, pointing out many taxpayers are suffering pay freezes in the aftermath of the deep recession.

Elected members in west Kent are set to rake in up to £24,234 in allowances from April in line with recommendations made by an independent panel before the economic downturn.

But the TaxPayers' Alliance termed the pay hikes as "unacceptable", especially in the wake of the MPs expenses scandal, which saw public trust of politicians dive.

But Roy Bullock, leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, who stands to receive a near 200 per cent increase in pay to £21,480 in 2011-12, argued there would never be a good time to increase allowances.

For 2010-11, Cllr Bullock will receive £16,750, up from the current level of £12,020. The town's other elected members are receiving pay increases of 45 per cent in basic allowances, phased in over three years from £2,630 increasing to £5,279.

Meanwhile, Mark Worall, the leader of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, will see his annual allowances increase 44 per cent to £24,234 in 2010-11.

Unacceptable

Matthew Elliott, TaxPayers' Alliance chief executive, said: "It is unacceptable for councillors to vote themselves pay rises when times are so tough for ordinary taxpayers."

Elected members of Sevenoaks District Council receive the lowest allowances in west Kent, with the basic pay level currently at £3,149, increasing to £3,698 in 2010-11, then £4,246 in 2011-12. But Peter Fleming, the council's leader, will be receiving a 40 per cent rise from £14,222 to £19,808.

The councillors voted in the pay rises after recommendations by the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel, which published its report two years ago.

Meanwhile, the majority of public sector workers can expect a pay increase of around just one per cent in 2010-11 and many employees in the private sector are still facing pay freezes or even redundancy.

"I understand what people may be saying, I can understand their anger," Cllr Bullock said, adding that the panel's recommendations, which includes increases in allowances that reflect councillors' responsibilities, were aimed at improving diversity among politicians in local government.

RECOMMENDATION: Councillors insist they are only following proper advice

He added: "I do not think the basic allowance is excessive, it reflects the actual work and effort that good councillors put in to assisting their residents.

"It is a voluntary activity but no councillor should be in any way out of pocket because of the service they give to the community."

The three councils said they chose to spread the increases over a number of years to ease the burden on taxpayers.

"As some commentators have said, there is no good time for increasing the rewards to elected members of any council or parliament and an element of the public will always criticise any increases irrespective of the economic conditions," Cllr Bullock added.

Tonbridge's leader Cllr Worrall said: "We accepted the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations last year and decided to implement the increases to allowances over a four-year period.

"We have not reconsidered the situation since then and will not do so. I am pleased we adopted this approach, particularly in light of the current economic climate, when residents are faced with difficulties."

A spokeswoman for Tonbridge explained why the borough's councillors were paid substantially more than its neighbours, she said: "Members allowances in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells were both historically lower because they had not wholly implemented earlier recommendations by the panel."

Budget aims to minimise the burden

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

member for finance, agreed: "If you look on the bad side, it is a big unknown out there.

"There will be a change of government and local government is always an easy target, although we collect £27m in business rates we get only £6m back.

"We just get one funding stream from central government and next year we are anticipating things getting even worse."

The council has to find savings of £1.2m and Cllr Ramsay said he was proud to say no jobs were being lost.

Cllr Ramsay added that the council was being forced to stop providing family fun days in each parish across the district. The days will now be targeted in certain areas and run in partnership with the social housing provider West Kent Housing.

Like Tunbridge Wells, he said the council was increasing partnership working with other authorities.

Rubbish collection routes are being reviewed, but he made it clear that residents' waste would still be picked up on a weekly basis.

Car parking charges across the district are being increased by 4.5per cent, he said, and £20,000 was being cut from civic expenses.

At the meeting on Tuesday night, council tax rises were set at 2.9 per cent, the lowest increase in 15 years, he said.

From April, the rate, including all the other authorities and average town or parish fees, will be £1,501.21 for a band D property.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council agreed its budget last Thursday and said residents would face no cuts to services.

The council's slice of the overall council tax bill is set to increase by 2.94 per cent, which is an extra £4.91 a year for a band D property. Overall the tax will increase by 2.34 per cent in the borough. Residents in an average home in the town will be paying £1,426.32 for 2010-11.

Efficiency

Leader Cllr Mark Worrall, said: "We know this recession has hit everyone hard and we have done everything we can to minimise the financial burden for residents.

"We have made substantial efficiency savings in the last two years and, with more savings in our back office and management functions planned this year, we have been able to agree a broadly 'standstill' budget which means we can continue with our current range of services."

Finance member Cllr David Aikman said that with so many financial unknowns, it was impossible to prioritise areas for capital investment.

- ***Email us at westkent@kosmedia.co.uk to share your views on this story.***

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Town set to blossom as contest returns

By **CHRIS BRITCHER**
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TUNBRIDGE Wells town centre is set to bloom this year as shops, businesses, homes and schools embark on a floral frenzy.

For the first time since 2003, the town will be joining in the national In Bloom programme – which sees towns and villages transform themselves in a bid to become the prettiest places in which to live.

And it is hoped Royal Tunbridge Wells In Bloom will revive the town, enhance the look of the town's heart, and "bring back community and civic pride".

It intends to use street flower baskets, landscaped areas, roundabout clean-ups and replanting containers, in a bid to make our town blossom.

This year's event is hoped to sow the seeds for further growth in the programme in future years.

Explains one of the organisers, Daniel Bech: "We want to bring back the sparkle to Royal Tunbridge Wells.

"I'm known for campaigning against the town's grot spots. This is a perfect way to enhance where we live.

"We want this year to get people involved and build a platform from which we can grow bigger and better in years to come."

There will be a competition with a host of titles up for grabs – among them best front garden, shop front, street, basket, and café/pub or club.

The idea emerged from the Tunbridge Wells Town Forum – the partnership between residents' representatives and ward councillors – and has the support of the local council.

It will be focused only in the town centre as villages elsewhere in the borough are often already involved in the national In Bloom programme.

Parks manager for the council, Mel Henley, is donating his time to helping get the scheme get back up and running.

An experienced former judge of In Bloom competitions elsewhere, he will launch this year's efforts for the town at a special presentation to businesses on Friday.

He told us: "Royal Tunbridge Wells In Bloom aims to engage the community to deliver environmental improvements throughout the town.

"As part of the Britain in Bloom campaign, which is recognised locally, regionally, and internationally, we are inviting local communities and businesses to support our campaign."

For further details and to learn how to become a sponsor, visit the website www.royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk.

BLOOMING LOVELY: School children have already helped design the logo for the Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom contest (above right) which aims to bring a splash of colour and fragrance to our lives this year

Securitas robbery detectives praised

A TEAM of elite detectives has received an official commendation from a High Court judge for their investigation of the Tonbridge Securitas robbery.

The painstaking work of Kent Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCA) has resulted in six men being brought before the courts and jailed for taking part in Britain's biggest cash robbery. More than £53 million was stolen by an armed gang in February 2006.

Mr Justice Penry-Davey commended the speed, intelligence and thoroughness of the investigation at a hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

Festival time for film

BUDDING filmmakers took to the streets of Edenbridge last weekend to shoot a short comedy flick they hope will dazzle in an upcoming film festival.

The film, shot in just 48-hours was directed by Aaron Mercer, of Eden A.D. Films based in Edenbridge and will be entered in The 2 Days Laughter competition next month in Margate.

The Bizarre Friendship of Tom & Carl includes past students from West Kent College.

To see this search 'blood brothers' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks talks to Lyn Paul – star of Blood Brothers – on Your KentTV. Turn to page 21 for review.

Will a deal be reached to free kidnap victims?

PRESSURE is mounting for a deal to be reached to free kidnapped couple Paul and Rachel Chandler.

The duo from Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, have been held against their will by Somali pirates since October 23.

This week, reports claimed those holding the couple have dropped their ransom demands from $7m (£4.5m) to around $2m (£1.3m).

Kidnappers claim the new figure covers 'expenses' for the 150 guards they have hiding the Chandlers, and the cost of food and vehicles.

The British Government has consistently insisted it will not pay a ransom, and kept details of any negotiations for their release tightly guarded.

The Times quoted a Whitehall security official this week as saying: "This case is unusual. Unlike seamen kidnapped in the region, the Chandlers are just ordinary holidaymakers without the backing of a big company and the pirates may well be realising this now."

The couple were kidnapped as they sailed their yacht from the Seychelles towards Tanzania. Pirates spotted them and boarded the boat as the couple slept. They are believed to be hidden somewhere in Somalia.

KIDNAPPED: Rachel and Paul Chandler

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Brave war pilot dies

A BATTLE of Britain fighter ace who shot down at least 14 enemy planes has died in hospital from pneumonia at the age of 89.

Wing Commander Bob Doe, from Crowborough, flew Spitfires during the pivotal air battle in the summer of 1940.

He was one of "The Few" praised by Prime Minister Winston Churchill for excelling in the aerial dogfights over the skies of Kent that saw the heavily outnumbered RAF defeat the German Luftwaffe.

Wing Cdr Doe, who was also shot down in 1940, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his heroics in the sky and Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his inspirational leadership.

A year after the battle he suffered severe facial injuries and a broken arm when his plane crashed, and underwent 22 operations to rebuild his face.

But he still continued his war service in Burma and stayed in the RAF until the 1960s.

His son Robert Doe said: "He wasn't a brave man by nature, he wasn't the sort of guy who would fly into a dogfight willy-nilly. He was careful, he chose his moments.

"I think conquering that internal fear, through the passion for his country and the passion for his family, were what made him a great man and a great pilot."

After he retired from the RAF he worked at a family-owned garage business in Rusthall.

The Battle of Britain is seen as a key turning point of the Second World War, as after being unable to win dominance of the skies Hitler was forced to call off his planned invasion of Britain.

Major celebrations are planned this June and July to mark the 70th anniversary of the four-month aerial battle that stemmed the tide of the German advance across Europe.

Feed the birds

Your efforts have helped reduce winter casualties

By **MIKE BENNETT**
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

THE long harsh winter has played havoc with the feeding habits of our wildlife.

Animal rescue centres have reported cases of herons raiding garden ponds in a desperate hunt for food, and kingfishers rescued after being unable to fish in iced up rivers.

Yet, despite the drama happening all around us, it seems it could have been worse.

Facing a potential death sentence with natural food unavailable due to frozen ground and water, wildlife's survival has been aided by increasing numbers of people putting out garden food and providing a safe haven for many.

There have been casualties, but with spring approaching nature is returning to normal and experts are confident the balance will soon be restored.

Dave Risely, who has run Folly Wildlife Rescue at Eridge Green with his wife Annette since 1993, reported a busy winter coping with exhausted birds affected by the cold, although currently they are experiencing a welcome lull in emergency calls.

Dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of all injured, orphaned and distressed wild animals across west Kent, they specialise in saving animals including deer, badgers and hedgehogs, as well as injured and fledging birds of all species.

He said: "It has been a tough time with many like egrets, kingfishers and water rail being rescued because they were unable to fish in frozen rivers and ponds.

Hungry and tired

"We have had green woodpeckers exhausted and unable to feed in the snow and ice, and even birds of prey unable to hunt and herons driven to raiding garden ponds but getting caught up in security netting.

"Lots of animals like badgers have kept underground during the worst weather, living off their fat resources but they are now coming out and are not in the best of condition and getting into difficulties."

Despite the pressure, the couple are preparing for major expansion following approval to build a new animal hospital on a five-acre site in Fairview Lane, for which supporters have raised £200,000 over the past five years. When complete, the charity will provide the only such animal rescue centre of excellence in the region.

For the past eight years Sandra Reddy has been a rescue ambulance driver for the Pembury-based Fox Project. She is experiencing a major increase in road casualties but is adamant it is not influenced by the weather but simply the call of nature.

Miss Reddy, said: "It is the end of the mating season, which means their minds are not always alert.

"Despite the hunting ban, numbers remain stable and have not risen and they are not being driven into towns to find food. Sadly we have to rescue one or two foxes a week."

RSPB spokesperson Sophie McCallum said there had been a huge interest during the snow, with their switchboards and website inundated with people seeking advice on how they could help and reporting unusual visitors such as redwings, fieldfares and tree sparrows that were struggling to find food elsewhere.

She said: "The extraordinarily harsh weather was particularly bad for birds with small bodies like the robin, long-tailed tits and wrens. Natural food becomes impossible to get with water frozen and the ground too hard. Garden feeding with seeds, fat, fruit and fat balls helped the survival."

Another move supporting wildlife launched this week sees two champions of the countryside spearheading Kent's efforts in a national campaign to enhance the environmental benefits of farming.

Frances Clayton, who lives on a 2,500 acre farm near Sevenoaks, has been named co-ordinator for the Campaign for the Farmed Environment with east Kent farmer Doug Wanstall as its chairman.

The aim of the three-year initiative is to provide the chance for landowners to demonstrate they can deliver environmental benefits within commercial agriculture for farm birds and general wildlife.

She said: "This is a great opportunity for farmers to create new habitat for wildlife that fits in with their operations. By working together we hope to maintain a flourishing working countryside."

Brave youngster saves dad's life

A YOUNG boy has been praised for the quick-thinking actions that saved his diabetic father's life.

Jordan Marks, 10, arrived home from school to see his father, Mike, collapsed on the floor of their family home in Tonbridge.

The youngster had to climb through an open window to get into the house and quickly called 999. Paramedic Andrew Wood said there was no doubt the boy's actions helped save Mr Marks' life.

Staff at South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust thought Jordan deserved special recognition and he was presented with a certificate at Tunbridge Wells ambulance station.

He also enjoyed a guided tour of an ambulance and a football and signed photographs donated by his beloved Chelsea Football Club.

Race will force road closures

THOUSANDS of runners will be taking to the streets on Sunday for the Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon.

And motorists are being advised to allow extra time for their journey if they intend to travel on the route the race will follow.

Organisers of the Children's Mutual Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon – which has become one of the south east's leading road races – say there will be some disruption between 10am and 1pm. Most junctions will be shut for 10-20 minutes, others for up to two hours. For details of the roads affected visit www.twharriers.org.uk and turn to our sports pages for more.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Kaya's variety of influences makes for whole new sound

BY EMBRACING a new era in the world of music, local band Kaya looks set to make a big noise on the international scene.

The Kent-based group will release their debut single, Rat Race, this summer and their music has received airplay as far afield as New Zealand. With the help of emerging record label Inigo, the band is steadily increasing its profile in the UK and beyond.

Kaya's sound has been described as a broad fusion between hip hop, soul, ska, dub and reggae, but guitarist Matt Howard, from Tunbridge Wells, would rather let the music do the talking.

"Our influences are really down to each member. We're all into similar things, but there is also a lot of diverse stuff," he said.

"Our drummer Tom's forte is hardcore metal and we use his skill and turn it into a drum and bass feel. As soon as you draw comparisons to another band, that's out there, so we don't really give comparisons.

"It's an urban style of music, but we bring together lots of different genres."

Howard, 31, has always been keen to pursue a career as a musician and as well as performing, he also helps out with the record label. His practical approach to the industry has proved of benefit to both his own projects and his work with Kaya, who formed about three years ago.

"My dad was a guitarist who worked with producer Joe Meek, so from a young age I was exposed to music," he said.

"I went to Manchester in my late teens to study sound engineering, because if I was going to hire a studio, it meant I could keep the costs down.

"When I graduated, I came back down here and worked at a few major record labels. That was more about business and learning how the industry worked. It was the same philosophy – I didn't know how the studio worked, so I learned about it and I didn't know how the industry worked, so I learned about that too."

BIG NOISE: Bassist Tom Y, vocalist Natty, drummer Tom H, vocalist Aina and guitarist Matt Howard

Established

Howard had worked with vocalists Natty and Aina on a previous project, Sweetoof, which earned the title of BBC Radio 1 Unsigned Band of the Year in 2003.

By developing Kaya's sound over a period of two years while the record label established itself, they have found a new way to work within the music industry and the future looks bright.

"The advantages of technology mean that putting music together and marketing it yourself has never been so easy," Howard said.

"Big record companies are changing the way they work and it's very easy to make music available. It's not so easy with sales, but we're looking at other revenue streams like merchandising or getting our music on adverts.

"I think UK music is very vibrant at the moment and as a nation, we're churning out some incredible music."

Find out more about Kaya online at www.officialkaya.com.

NHS under strain with vomiting bug

UNPRECEDENTED levels of the highly-infectious norovirus have put hospital services under severe pressure this winter.

Dr Sarah Mumford, director of infection prevention and control at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, said problems with soaring cases of the winter-vomiting bug were compounded by the unusually heavy snowfall.

Worst

Health bosses at the trust, including Dr Mumford, chief executive Glen Douglas and Nikki Luffingham, the chief operating officer, have agreed that this season was the worst in recent memory for norovirus.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

"This year has been particularly bad and everything has come together," Dr Mumford said. "With the snow we had an increase in trauma from people falling over requiring orthopaedic surgery.

"There were elderly people ready to go home but who needed care in the community that could not be provided because care workers were snowed in and it would have been dangerous for us to discharge them.

"The hospital jammed up a little bit and that produces a huge mounting problem and there was the spread of norovirus on top of that.

"Every available bed in the whole hospital was being used. It was a huge strain on resources."

Dr Mumford said it was difficult to know why norovirus cases had soared this winter and said the same situation had been repeated around the country.

Cold snaps

However, the prolonged cold snaps and freezing temperatures could have affected the spread of the bug, she said.

"If people are cooped up inside it is much easier for viruses to transmit between people. If the heating is on so it is warmer and warm air aids transmission there is no doubt about it," Dr Mumford explained.

"But how big an impact it has had is really difficult to judge."

In January, four wards at the Kent & Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells were closed to new admissions.

Dr Mumford said that once one person vomits in a bay of six beds all the other patients would be exposed to the bug, therefore wards were being closed regularly to new admission in a bid to prevent the infection spreading.

Wards were also closed to visitors, with only relatives of the really sick or dying allowed in to visit their loved ones.

"We are seeing a trickle of cases still, but by and large not the same amount we were seeing at the beginning of the year," she said.

"In mid January it really reached its peak and is tailing off a lot and we are managing to keep much better control of it. The current level is about the same level for the whole of last winter – there has been a huge difference."

Burglar stopped in his tracks

A PROLIFIC burglar who avoided capture by travelling on the train in a suit and carrying a briefcase, has been jailed for four years for carrying out a string of house break-ins.

Robin Brown, 43, who dressed smartly to blend in as a commuter, used the railway network to get to and from his targets across the south east – including two in Kent.

He took trains from his home in east London to Borough Green and Harbledown, near Canterbury as well as other villages in Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire and Suffolk.

But he was snared at Borough Green railway station last November waiting for a train to make his escape after breaking into a house nearby.

The court heard the prolific career burglar was captured at the train station on November 17 after he was spotted fleeing the scene of his latest crime.

A woman had returned to her home in Tolsey Mead to find a window smashed and items missing.

As she rang the police to report the burglary she saw a man in her garden and gave a good description of him to officers.

After this was circulated, a member of staff at the railway station spotted him and called the police, who rushed to the station and arrested him.

Brown was sentenced to four years behind bars after a hearing at Gloucester Crown Court on Friday, February 19.

THIEF: Mr Brown

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Garden centre theft

PIPES have been stolen and plants and polytunnels repeatedly damaged during break-ins at a garden centre in Tonbridge.

The most recent incident at the Coblands Nursery in Trench Road, occurred last weekend, and the centre was also targeted overnight between February 16 to 18.

Neighbourhood officer PCSO Linda Baker said: "I would like to hear from anyone who knows who might be responsible for the damage. Perhaps someone may know the whereabouts of the standpipes that were taken."

If you have any information call police on 01732 379 217.

Pupils arrested by police activity day

POLICE dogs paid a visit to primary schoolchildren as part of an activity day to find out about the work of local officers.

Members of the Tunbridge Wells neighbourhood policing team also brought along a general purpose patrol vehicle, a traffic car, a police 4x4 and their mobile police station to Pembury Primary School.

Using the blue lights and sirens proved particularly popular during the 'how we travel' themed day.

PCSO Nick Brown brought along his police bicycle and talked about bike security and safe cycling.

Children were also shown a chemical biological radiological nuclear suit by PC Martin Pemble.

"The children were really enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed the day despite the weather, which was freezing cold with sleet showers.

"They all took lots of notes and we were kept busy answering their many questions. All in all, it was a great success and an event that I hope the children will remember for some time," PCSO Nick Brown said.

Inquest is told how man died pointing fake Uzi at armed police officers

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THE final hours of a man shot dead by police after brandishing an Uzi-type submachine gun have been revealed at an inquest.

Dayniel Tucker, 39, from Adisham Green in Sittingbourne, was killed by officers responding to a 999 call at 7.51am on December 29, 2007.

Jurors at the inquest at Gravesham Coroners' Court heard how Mr Tucker had made the call himself, claiming a gunman was threatening him in Stansted, near Sevenoaks.

Asked what the firearm looked like, Mr Tucker said it was an Uzi submachine gun, before hanging up.

Lawyer Catherine Milsem, who opened the inquest, said Mr Tucker had spent the previous night drinking in the Black Horse pub in Stansted, where he consumed between eight and 10 vodka and Red Bulls.

A barmaid working that night said she had a feeling Mr Tucker was "deeply sad".

Ms Milsem said after the 999 call on December 29, police arrived on the scene around 8am and despite the incident being of minimum risk, armed response teams were called in and subsequently trained negotiators.

The first officers to arrive found Mr Tucker walking along Tumblefield Road concealing something in his jacket.

Ms Milsem told jurors how officers shouted out to him, but he ignored them.

Mr Tucker's car was parked in a nearby field with a hosepipe attached to the exhaust, and the officers thought he may have been attempting to commit suicide.

It was later discovered Mr Tucker had enquired about having the catalytic converter – which reduces toxic fumes – removed from his white Mitsubishi Colt.

A toxicology report by Dr Fiona Perry found he had 23 per cent of carbon monoxide in his blood, which would have caused nausea, severe headaches and dizziness. The report also showed traces of cannabis.

At 8.28am armed response teams arrived at the scene and decided to try and detain him if he had a weapon.

Single shot

On approaching Mr Tucker, they shouted "armed police, armed police".

But when challenged, he pointed an Uzi-style submachine gun at the two officers who discharged a single shot each.

Ms Milsem said: "Mr Tucker took up a position with his legs apart, holding the gun with both hands. Officer D fired one shot from his firearm and this was closely followed by officer C."

A post-mortem found Mr Tucker received a gunshot wound to his left hip and another – the fatal shot – to his chest.

An ambulance was called, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The gun, found next to Mr Tucker's body, was a plastic air gun used to shoot plastic pellets.

The inquest is expected to last two weeks.

News and sport updated daily online
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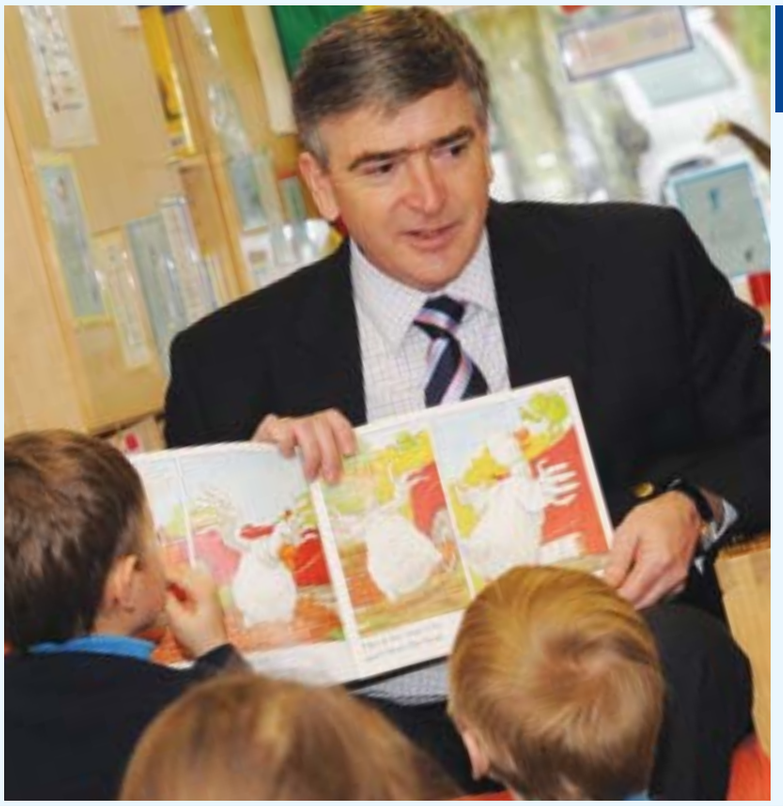

Meet the Headmaster-Elect

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Wednesday 17 March
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SCHOOL TIME: The AVEGA charity has helped set up a primary school, east of Rwanda

Let's do lunch and you could help Rwanda

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A RESTAURATEUR has pledged to help raise funds to rebuild the central African nation of Rwanda.

And now he hopes people here will dig deep to support a very special charity event which was all sparked by the story of a woman who survived the mass slaughter in the country in 1994.

The genocide saw the mass killing of hundreds of thousands of people under the direction of the Hutu dominated government.

Odette Kayirere's husband, Alexi, was murdered in the early days of the genocide and she went into hiding with her six children, who at the time were aged between six months and eight years.

Hidden

She was hidden by Hutu neighbours, but was sometimes forced to hide in the bush and had several lucky escapes, narrowly avoiding being captured by the killers.

In 1995, she was among a group of widows who set up the Association des Veuves du Genocide Agahozo (AVEGA), a self-help group that now supports more than 3,800 women who lost their husbands during the atrocities and 11,473 orphans in the Kibungo area of eastern Rwanda.

After hearing her story, Graeme Moore, the owner of Montrose restaurant in Southborough, felt compelled to support the work of AVEGA and the small UK-based charity Msaada.

"Of course I was always aware of the terrible goings-on in Rwanda and the genocide but it is not until you've heard someone speak who has been there and seen the results that it really hits home," he said.

HONEY MONEY: Charity lunch funds will go towards setting up a hospitality centre

Mr Moore is hoping that the great and the good of Tunbridge Wells will now support a charity lunch he is organising at his award-winning restaurant, which he hopes will provide Msaada with funds towards building a hospitality centre for tourists and local people run by Mrs Kayirere.

Msaada was founded in 2005 with the support of the BBC journalist Fergal Keane, who reported on the Rwandan genocide in 1994 and witnessed the horror first-hand.

Billy Kelly, the charity's director, said the organisation provided support directly to the community, through AVEGA, without government involvement.

The charity already works with Excel Primary School in Rwamagana, which is a city in the east of Rwanda, which provides education and integrates students of different ethnic backgrounds.

Mr Moore wants his lunch to raise at least £2,500 for the hospitality project planned nearby, which would sell local produce including honey and meat and provide a rest stop for locals and passing tourists.

The project is part of AVEGA's aim to make the local people self-sufficient, Mr Kelly said: "What they want to do is stop us being charitable and become self-reliant."

The Msaada lunch at Montrose will be held on April 23 and costs £70. To book call 01892 513 161. Visit www.msaada.org.uk.

Tribute to 'great' councillor

THE FRIEND of a former councillor who died from Alzheimer's disease has paid tribute to a "great bloke" and "people's person".

Peter Hancock, 79, represented Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Trench ward as a Labour member between 1995 and 2005. He died earlier this month.

Derek Still, who was leader of the Labour group at the local authority until 2007, said: "He was terrific on the ground.

"He had a great understanding of the underprivileged and he looked after people with disabilities.

"His aim was always to make things better for the worst off in society. Nothing was too much trouble for him and that's what people liked about him – he was a real people's person."

He described Mr Hancock as a "great character", he said: "He was a great bloke, we had the same political views and we got on terrifically."

Mr Still told how his friend lost an eye during an accident while Mr Hancock, who was an engineer, was working at Ford in Dagenham.

"He had a glass eye and one night we went to a restaurant to watch a band as part of a Labour Party social.

"He banged his head on his steering wheel while driving and his eye fell out. He stuck it back in but it was all askew and the woman at the bar nearly fainted. He was a great character," he said, laughing at the memory.

He added: "It was a real shame the way he suffered from the Alzheimer's towards the end. It got quite bad and I did not see him too much, his lovely wife Shirley looked after him.

"She was really devoted to him and his children; they're a really close family. His grandchildren thought he was great."

Drink-driving ban

A WOMAN has been banned for driving for a year and fined £500 for drink-driving offences near her home in Sevenoaks.

Michaela Vanhalewyn, 46, of Dartford Road, was sentenced at West Kent Magistrates Court last Tuesday after she was stopped by police on January 31 while driving a Saab 95.

She was found with 56 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, which is over the legal limit of 35 microgrammes.

Her driving ban may be reduced if she completes a Government-approved course.

Speeding teen gets five points

A SPEEDING teenage driver has received five points on her licence and been fined £65.

Virginia Felton Gerber, 19, of Horns Road in Cranbrook, was sentenced by magistrates in Sevenoaks last Tuesday.

She was caught driving her red Ford Puma on Horns Road, Hawkhurst, over the 30mph speed limit in August last year. She also had to pay £50 in costs.

One religious symbol strikes a chord no matter what your belief, Jane Connolly

Picture: THE ESTATE OF SYBIL ANDREWS

Be drawn to the

IT is one of the most striking, iconic images of all time. And an image and a concept which has fascinated artists through the centuries.

Now a major new exhibition is taking place in Paddock Wood which sees famous artists explore the power and emotion of crucifixion imagery.

Featuring works by a diverse range of artists from Tracey Emin to Marc Chagall, Cross Purposes presents many fascinating images that reflect a multitude of interpretations. Exploring both the religious connotations of the cross and its influence in secular society, the exhibition at Mascalls Gallery will be a thought-provoking study of an unmistakeable symbol.

Curator Nathaniel Hepburn explained: "Many of the artists included are not religious artists or people," he said. "They have reached the crucifixion at different points in their lives, to tell very different stories.

"Maggi Hambling started painting a crucifixion picture every Good Friday when her mum became very ill in 1986 and it became something of a ritual for her; a way to connect with her mother now she has passed away.

"R Henderson Blyth produced his work after spending time in France during the Second World War and it was a way he could represent his experiences at that time."

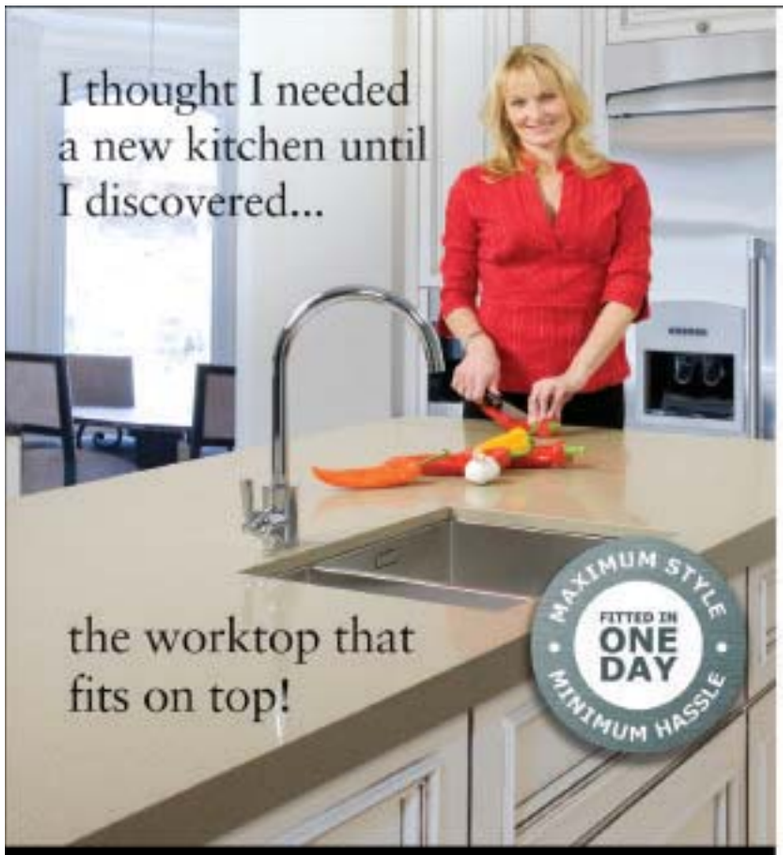
Picture: THE ESTATE OF R HENDERSON BLYTH

The exhibition is a collection of remarkable images by 22 artists including Stanley Spencer, Duncan Grant, Eric Gill, Betty Swanwick, Lee Miller and Emmanuel Levy.

But the contributions by Russian artist Marc Chagall are of particular interest and reflect two very different takes on the meaning of the cross.

Created in 1945, a recently discovered work – Apocalypse in Lilac, Capriccio – expresses Chagall's reaction to the revelations emerging from Germany towards the end of the Second World War.

"As news was coming out of



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sign of the cross

Picture: MARC CHAGALL © ADAGP, PARIS AND DACS, LONDON 2009

Picture: THE ESTATE OF GRAHAM SUTHERLAND

STARTLING: From left, works by Sybil Andrews, R Henderson Blyth, Marc Chagall, Graham Sutherland and Maggie Hambling

Germany about what was happening to Jewish people, he made a very powerful response to that," Hepburn said. "It was kept by the artist in his studio all his life and I believe it was not supposed to be on public display. But it was bought by the Ben Uri Gallery in London and has been on display for a matter of weeks."

Seeing Chagall's work go on display at Paddock Wood will have particular resonance for the people of Kent, as All Saints' Church in nearby Tudeley is the only church in the world to have all the windows decorated by Chagall. The east window is a memorial to Sarah d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, a local girl who drowned in 1963 at the age of 21, and the exhibition welcomes Chagall's preparatory drawings to the UK for the very first time. These drawings reveal the evolution of the artist's ideas, something that should prove illuminating for visitors.

"It's an image that we all immediately recognise and we associate it with man's cruelty to another man. We understand the suffering," Mr Hepburn said.

For Mascalls Gallery, which stands on the campus of Mascalls School in Maidstone Road, hosting this high profile exhibition by important artists is another big achievement in its relatively short history.

"Since the gallery opened in 2006, we've been gradually increasing our profile in the area and had works by artists like Henry Moore and L S Lowry," Hepburn said. "We've been working hard on this and hopefully it will raise our profile from the regional to the national scene."

• Cross Purposes runs from Friday, March 5, until May 29, before touring to Ben Uri, the London Jewish Museum of Art in the summer. Mascalls Gallery is open from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and 11am to 4pm, Friday and Saturday. Admission is free. For more details call 01892 839039 or visit www.mascallsgallery.org.

Picture: MAGGIE HAMBLING

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

SOCIAL CARE: A JOB THAT CHANGES LIVES

There has never been a better time to get into social care. There are jobs in people's homes, residential and day care and the wider community.
To find out more about local recruitment events in your area, visit www.socialcarecareers.co.uk
For friendly advice and a booklet or DVD phone 0300 123 1045.

Get more out of life.
Help someone get more out of theirs.

DH Department of Health

Imagine yourself in a job that involves putting people back in control of their lives. More than a million people work in social care and over the next few years this is set to grow. With as many as 200,000 jobs in the sector expected to be advertised in the coming year for a diverse range of jobs there has never been a better time to consider how working in social care could suit you.

Whether you're moving from another career, starting your working life from school or college or looking to get back into work after some time out, there are a huge variety of roles to choose from whether it's working with adults with learning disabilities, with children and their families or with older people. You could work in a residential home or day centre or help someone in their own home.

In many cases, you don't need qualifications to start, as training is done on the job and many employees will help you gain NVQs. There are also plenty of opportunities to acquire additional skills training and qualifications.

One of the real benefits cited by many people who work in social care is the variety. For Sarah Robinson, for example, there's no such thing as a typical day at the office. Sarah, 23, works in social care as a team manager and currently manages three services, supporting six people with special needs with 11 staff members.

Sarah decided on a career in social care after helping look after her grandfather when he was terminally ill. She started out doing voluntary work with her local day care service for young adults with disabilities, and while volunteering there, decided social care was right for her.

Sarah started her professional career by working with an agency as a casual support worker for social care services in her area supporting a wide range of different people with different disabilities. It was through the agency Sarah worked at a service where the people she supported invited her to work with them full time. She then transferred to a new company and completed her NVQ2 in 2007 while working there.

Since then she has progressed to a senior support worker and is now a team manager along with undertaking on a Management Development Programme. She has also started her NVQ4, with her next goal to progress to a service manager.

She says: "I did an A-Level in performing arts at college and originally planned to pursue an acting career but after working in social care it felt like the right fit for me. Since then I've worked hard but it's paid off and I've been able to have additional training and take on more responsibility."

"There is so much variety in my role; one day I'll work on site supporting service users whilst on another day I may be in the office interviewing for new staff or supporting other team members. Opportunities definitely exist for those that are prepared to seize them! If you like helping people, I'd recommend you think about working in social care - it can be one of the most rewarding things you'll do. It's brilliant to see members of my team flourish in the right role."

To encourage people to consider a career in social care, a series of events will be held in local shopping centers across 50 locations in England. To be held during the following weeks, the events will aim to raise awareness and understanding of the range of jobs within the sector, routes to entry and the possibility of on-the-job training. Local employers will also be on hand to talk about immediate vacancies.

To find out more about working in social care, including the full list of events visit www.socialcarecareers.co.uk

Town centre gunman was a hoax 999 call

A MAN has been charged with wasting police time after a 999 call was made from a public telephone box saying a gunman was threatening people in Tunbridge Wells town centre.

Wayne Thompsett, 29, of Stanley Road, Tunbridge Wells, was arrested on Saturday, February 20, by officers investigating the call made in the town centre.

The caller, who rang police shortly after 11pm on that day, reported seeing a man threatening people with a gun in the town.

Mr Thompsett was bailed to appear before magistrates in Sevenoaks on March 12.

Hope that concert will see Libby Lee walk to happiness

POSITIVE: Libby and brother Ben

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A CONCERT is being held to raise money to give an eight-year-old girl with cerebral palsy the chance to walk unaided.

Libby Lee, whose condition has caused weakness down her left side, and her parents, Toni and David, want her to have an operation that would enable her to walk independently and without the need of walking sticks.

However, the surgeon who can perform the specialist procedure – so far with a 100 per cent success rate – works in St Louis, Missouri in the US, and it costs £45,000.

The family has launched an appeal called Walking to Happiness, and it is hoped that a stage show at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks will help raise funds for their trip to America's mid-west.

Mrs Lee, who runs The Greyhound pub in Keston with her husband, said: "It's quite amazing really and Libby is very excited.

"She just wants to be the same as everyone else. She's nervous, of course, about the operation and I've explained a bit about what they are going to do.

"It will improve her general day-to-day life quite a bit. She knows it is going to be difficult, but she is a very determined little girl."

The Lee family were thrust into the spotlight when singer and concert headliner, Anthony Wolfson, saw their appeal for Libby on the social networking site Facebook.

His representatives, Standing Ovation Music, are now organising the show at the Stag, which Mrs Lee, 41, hopes will help bring in money towards the operation.

The operation, which is called selective dorsal rhizotomy, will release the stiffness in her legs and give Libby permanently flat feet. The procedure will help her sit, make transitions between postures and improve her standing and walking.

Doctors expect that afterwards she will be able to walk without any support at home and in other safe environments. Outdoors she will need one or two sticks.

Libby, who is nine this year, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, when she was 11-months-old. Doctors said she would only be able to walk with a frame or at very best with a "style of her own", Mrs Lee said.

But with a lot of hard work, Libby has defied the odds and took her first steps in October 2009, achieving 30 steps by the end of the week.

"She has always been a happy and very determined little girl, who thinks she can do anything. If we let her, she would play football and enter Britain's Got Talent as a dancer," her mother said.

The concert at the Stag on April 18 will include a host of artists and musicians and is called Every Little Helps. Tickets will be going on sale shortly and a single is being released of the title-song from the show.

For details email info@standingovationmusic.co.uk. Or visit www.walkingtohappiness.co.uk.

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Image courtesy of Apple.

Road closure to be shorter than first advertised

HIGHWAYS chiefs say the closure of a main road for gas mains work will cause less disruption than originally planned due to a new permit scheme being enforced.

Southern Gas Networks had planned to close the A25 at Sundridge, near Sevenoaks, for essential work for 12 weeks from Monday.

But after discussions with Kent Highways Services this has been reduced to eight weeks and penalties will be imposed for running over this time.

Under the Kent Permit Scheme a company planning to dig up a road must apply for a permit from Kent Highway Services, so the works can be managed to minimise jams and delays suffered by motorists and other road users.

This has been used to try and reduce the disruptions for motorists using the main road to Sevenoaks or the M25 and A21 junctions just before the town.

Speed monitored

COMMUNITY police officers have been carrying out speed checks on motorists in two areas of Sevenoaks where concerns have been raised.

Neighbourhood policing team members PC Ben Clatworthy and PCSO Karl Coomber monitored vehicles in the Kippington and St John's areas of Sevenoaks as part of ongoing efforts to tackle speeding.

A police spokeswoman said: "Residents in both locations have told officers this is an issue they are concerned about.

"As a result of these checks 14 motorists were warned about the speed at which they were driving."

Spring into the

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Pictures: DAN SMITH

FASHIONISTAS flocked to Tunbridge Wells Fashion Week to check out the latest looks for spring/summer 2010.

The event in west Kent's fashion capital gave independent boutiques in the High Street the chance to showcase their wares to a wider audience.

Hoopers department store, already a hub for local label-lovers, highlighted its vast collection of luxury brands including Ralph Lauren and Mulberry.

The event, with lunchtime and evening shows at Hoopers and The Brew House Hotel, took place on Wednesday and Thursday.

Richard Moore, editorial director of co-sponsors The Magazine People, publishers of SO Tunbridge Wells, said: "It has been a fantastic success and hopefully the first of many others to follow.

"The week has raised the profile of Tunbridge Wells as a fashion destination and been a great opportunity to showcase the variety of collections available in the town, from independent boutiques as well as national brands.

"It has reinforced what fashionistas already know – you don't need to leave Tunbridge Wells to get the latest looks and trends."

The ticketed shows proved so popular among fashion lovers that another 'week' is planned this autumn from September 28 to October 1.

Louise Clark, chief operating officer at The Brew House Hotel, which also supported the event, said the aim was to follow on from

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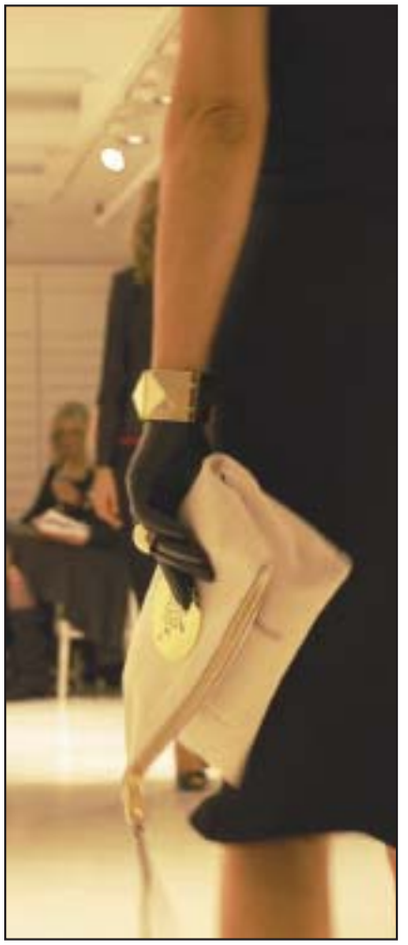

London Fashion Week, but offer something more attainable than the capital's high fashion focus.

"The vision was to bring the glitz and glamour of the fashion world here, but in a more realistic and achievable way," she said.

"We have real models and real high street fashion to show people how to put outfits together. We have not gone for size zero models and we've aimed to showcase a range of looks and ages."

The shows at the Brew House offered one fashion graduate, Chloe Bosher, the opportunity to reveal her collection Dot your Teas and Cross your Eyes, alongside boutiques including Bod&Ted, Little London and Kitsch.

La Belle Femme, Country Stile, Greens and the online Gently Worn Vintage based in Langton Green, also showed.

Tim Brewer, general manager of Hoopers, which also sponsored the week and held two in-store shows, said: "Inspiration for the shows was taken from this season's key fashion trends, from military to denim, nudes to florals, city to safari.

"Ticket holders also enjoyed style consultations, and a selection of hair and beauty treatments. It was truly a day and night of indulgent luxury."

He added: "We showcased leading brands from the spring/summer 2010 collections, including iconic pieces from Armani Collezioni, Paul Smith, Moschino, Nicole Fahri, Max Mara, D & G, Boss, Ralph Lauren, accessories by Mulberry, Paul Smith and Lulu Guiness and shoes by Kurt Geiger."

• ***Turn to the Review supplement inside this newspaper for our Weekend Female page featuring the latest fashions and beauty news.***

DJs to do battle for charity cash

FIVE DJs are set to battle it out as part of a competition to raise money for a national cancer charity.

Each of the performers will be entertaining the audience at Pitcher and Piano in Tunbridge Wells with their own style and sound from electric funk to 70s disco.

All proceeds from the event, Battle of the Decks, on April 1 will go to Cancer Research UK and the audience will get to vote which DJ is crowned king of the dance floor.

Tickets cost £8 and include entry in a prize draw. The evening takes place from 8pm-3am.

Tickets are on sale now and can be bought from www.cancerresearchuk.org or from the Cancer Research UK shop in Mount Pleasant.

For more information search for Battle of the Decks on Facebook or call 07968 827437.

Associate partner

AN ESTATE agent has appointed a new associate partner with a wealth of experience to enhance their service.

Steve Bovis has joined Wood & Pilcher and will be based at their office in the High Street, Tunbridge Wells.

A spokesman for the company said: "Wood & Pilcher are delighted to announce the appointment of Steve Bovis as the new associate partner.

"Mr Bovis has been an estate agent since 1982. He has intimate knowledge of the property stock and market in the surrounding area, and is looking forward to working within an independent estate agency environment."

Mr Bovis can be contacted on 01892 511211, or at stevebovis@woodandpilcher.co.uk.

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Schools hop online to use new system

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

CHILDREN, teachers and parents have been communicating outside the classroom through a new online learning device at three schools.

The makers said the software, called Frog, allowed students and teachers to access all school information, including homework diaries, email, resource-booking, daily bulletins, school hard drives and timetables, from one online location.

JUMP TO IT: Frog software allows students, parents and teachers access to information out of school hours

St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School in Tunbridge Wells, The Judd School and Hillview School for Girls in Tonbridge have installed the technology and were enthusiastic about its benefits.

David Burgess, project leader, St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School, said: "Frog is changing the way we work and is helping to foster a culture of leadership in the school.

"The forums have really helped our students to network with each other; they are transforming students into keen learners both inside and beyond the school classroom.

"Our teachers love being able to work from home and to set work for absent students more easily than before."

The Government has set schools the target of offering parents real-time access to their child's learning on a timely and frequent basis at least once per term by September 2010.

Frog offers a portal which allows parents easy to understand access, and the system is now being used across 83 local authority areas nationally.

Stephen Bovey, headteacher at Hillview, said: "We are very excited to be launching the Frog online learning environment this year. It will be a crucial means of support, collaboration and engagement for all members of our school community."

Gareth Davies, managing director at Frog, added: "These schools in west Kent are fantastic examples of those which have implemented an effective online learning environment that engages the whole school

Are your stables secure?

BURGLARS have been targeting stables in the countryside stealing horse feed, bridles, saddles, hay and tools.

A spate of recent burglaries has prompted officers from the Tunbridge Wells rural neighbourhood policing team to issue advice about reducing equestrian-related crime.

One of the most recent incidents took place at stables in Willow Lane. They were hit between February 15 and 16, with three bags of horse feed taken from a locked bin.

PCSO Sam Wadge urged horse owners to review the security of their property.

She said: "People can sometimes become complacent and forget that in recent years they've bought new equipment and tack and haven't taken any steps to security mark it.

"Equally they may not have thought to upgrade locks or install shed alarms. Now is the time to think about security and make it difficult for the thieves."

Officers are increasing their patrols in areas around stables and are visiting people to offer crime-reduction advice and posters. A tack security marking event is set to be held in the coming weeks.

"If you see strangers near your yard, without putting yourself at risk, make a note of vehicle registrations. If strangers ask you seemingly innocent questions be wary of giving too much information," PCSO Wadge added. "Don't feel guilty about being suspicious of people or reporting suspicious incidents to police."

Anyone with any information about these incidents is asked to contact police on 01732 379217 or Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Kent Highway Services

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **86-88**

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JULIE MADDOCKS

Everyone wants to be a winner

"AND the winner is…" – a phrase which seems to be ringing out in our ears regularly at the moment.

Awards season is upon us; The Brits, Baftas and even Taste of Kent, it's ceremonies a-go-go in the run up to the Oscars.

They are all perfect opportunities for someone's efforts to be recognised, and for them to thank literally every man and his dog, without hopefully breaking down in tears and making a complete show of themselves.

I often wonder why the entire event is televised though. As I watched Jonathan Ross's reserved presentation of the Bafta ceremony last weekend, I realised that I knew only a fraction of the nominees and very few of the actual winners.

Quite rightly though, everyone from best actor to the cleaner was congratulated for their achievements, showing they all had a part to play.

Which, it could be said, is true of all our lives. Whatever our role, competition is alive and kicking in almost everything we do.

Of course, it doesn't always lead to us being hauled up in front of our peers to receive an accolade, but whatever our job, we shouldn't overlook our contribution.

Now you may say that competition isn't healthy; I remember traditional sports day being scrapped at our son's primary school, as the headteacher felt children should not be encouraged to compete against each other.

IN IT TO WIN IT: Whether we like it or not, life is a competition from a very early age

Although I can see, and to a degree accept this point of view, it doesn't seem to be a realistic option, as competition is something we face on a daily basis, from getting up and fighting for the bathroom, to ensuring we are best placed in the queue at the supermarket checkout. Now these may be more trivial forms of competing, but we would be incredibly naive not to realise that they exist.

Please don't get me wrong, our lads had a fabulous primary school education, which they both look back on with great fondness, but we were always concerned that abolishing competition wasn't a true reflection of what they may face in the future.

When they get to the workplace, even if they're someone who chooses not to chase up the corporate ladder, they should certainly be aware that competition exists.

Believe me, I've felt the force of failure, particularly in school races. It would be fair to say the only thing I've ever run successfully was a bath.

But it doesn't stop that competitive streak, which we all have to different degrees. As the saying goes, 'you've got to be in it to win it'.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that this was a slogan adopted by the National Lottery at one point. Now, there's a competition I wouldn't mind winning – particularly with the rollover totals in the European competition.

Could you imagine if you'd been part of the couple who recently won £85 million?

No? Oh, I think I could.

Agreed it's a huge sum of money and perhaps I wouldn't know quite where to start spending it, but I'd give it a pretty good go.

Of course, it goes without saying, it wouldn't change me at all. Yeah right!

Julie reports from around the county for KOS Media's broadband TV station www.yourkenttv.co.uk Contact her on julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk

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It's in the blood

JANE CONNOLLY reviews ever-green musical Blood Brothers on its opening night on Tuesday at the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells – the performances are sponsored by this newspaper

ENTHRALLING: Blood Brothers is a popular, moving musical which continues to draw fans

FAMILY ties cannot be broken in Willy Russell's powerful and moving musical, Blood Brothers.

A mother's heartbreaking choice starts a tragic chain of events in this highly acclaimed production from Bill Kenwright.

Blood Brothers is one of the longest-running musicals in history, having run in the West End for 22 years, and now Kent audiences can see the cult show at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

Tuesday's opening night was well-attended and pre-performance chat revealed that some of the audience members had seen the show a number of times before. Evidently this musical has the power to bring fans back for more, and from the moment the curtain rose, it was not hard to see why Blood Brothers has won theatregoers' hearts.

Set in Russell's native Liverpool, the show explores issues of class and how being raised on the wrong side of the tracks can potentially shape your future.

When twin brothers are separated at birth and given very different starts in life, it appears they will follow wildly different paths. But the best efforts of their mothers cannot prevent the two boys being drawn together, their destinies entwined in a way no one could have foretold.

Of all the actresses who have played the role over the years, former New Seekers star Lyn Paul is widely considered to be the quintessential Mrs Johnstone.

A good woman who finds herself in a desperate situation, the single mother of seven is faced with an impossible dilemma after falling pregnant with twins. When her wealthy, childless employer offers to take one of the babies off her hands, it looks like the only solution.

But the mother's choice will return to haunt her, as Mickey and Eddie's fates gradually veer onto a collision course.

CONNECTED: Blood brothers Mickey and Eddie are brought up in very different worlds

From the opening notes to the moving finale, Paul's pure voice brings Russell's lyrics to life with warmth and humility.

Always a likeable character despite her law-breaking brood, Mrs Johnstone's grief and regret is never far from the surface and her terrible decision never alienates the audience. This is in part due to Russell's characterisation and honest dialogue, but Paul's performance undoubtedly places the audience firmly in Mrs Johnstone's cheap shoes.

There are plenty of laughs to be had, with the adult actors portraying giddy school children throughout the first act. But the production accurately captures the morphing of innocent childhood into tarnished adulthood, with the two brothers' lives becoming more disparate as the years pass.

While Mickey faces the harsh realities of working class life, Eddie lives in the fantasy world that only money can buy and these former blood brothers are about to face a test that will stretch their bond to its limit.

As well as being highly entertaining, the show is also thought-provoking and will prompt discussions about the nature of class and what actually constitutes privilege. Most of all, it is a gripping and moving musical with songs that will be running through your head for some time after the curtain falls.

• Blood Brothers' run at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, concludes this weekend. For details and of other shows see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call 01892 530613/532072.

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Tourism week opens up the attractions of historic town

Tours let you explore some of our wonders

By JON COATES
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

TOWN leaders have revealed plans to celebrate British Tourism Week next month with walking tours and a free prize draw.

Tunbridge Wells will join destinations from across the UK in marking the VisitBritain event from March 15 to 21.

Free guided walks around the town will be offered on Saturday, March 20, which will start from the tourist information centre in the Pantiles at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm.

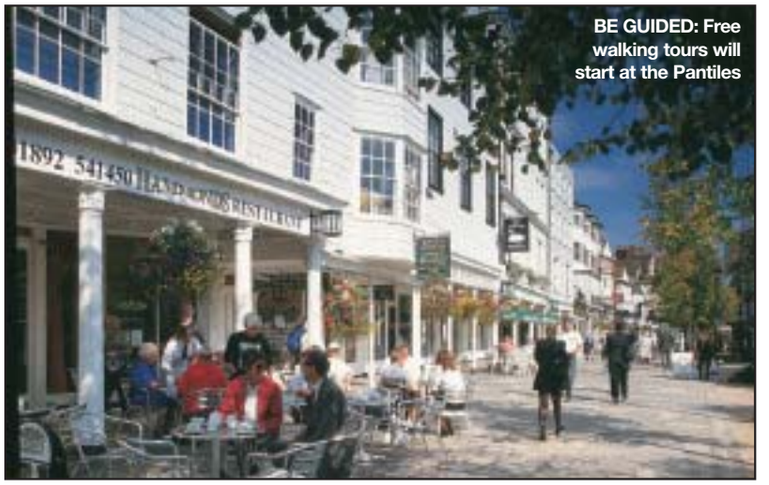
The tours will last for an hour and will take in the Pantiles, Chalybeate Spring and the High Street.

A Tunbridge Wells Borough Council spokeswoman said: "Regular guided walking tours are offered every Thursday and Saturday morning from March to December.

"They are a fantastic way of learning all about the colourful history of the town and its many famous visitors over the last 400 years."

Visitors will also be able to pop into the tourist information centre to enter a free prize draw to win a Seven Wonders of the Weald Family Pass, which offers savings of more than £150 at visitor attractions in the High Weald.

The national tourist board VisitBritain encourages all UK destinations to take part in the annual British Tourism Week in order to highlight the importance of tourism to the British economy – which is worth more than £114 billion each year.


BE GUIDED: Free walking tours will start at the Pantiles

Tourism in the borough of Tunbridge Wells alone is worth a staggering £199 million per year to its economy and businesses, which includes accommodation providers, visitor attractions, shops and restaurants.

The industry also supports more than 3,900 jobs in the borough.

Cllr Elizabeth Thomas, the borough council's portfolio holder for planning and economic development, said: "Local tourism businesses and the visitors who come to this area are vital to the borough's economy.

"It's important that residents take the opportunity to see what is on offer. Come and enjoy exploring our wonderful borough."

For further details on both the free guided walks and the free prize draw, contact the tourist information centre in the Pantiles on 01892 515675.

See www.britishtourismweek.com for more details about British Tourism Week.

Driver given ban

A TEENAGER has been banned from driving and fined £250 for drink-driving.

Woody Wise, 19, of Mount Pleasant in Tonbridge, was pulled over by officers for not wearing a seatbelt while driving through the town's High Street.

A breath test showed 82 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, which was more than double the legal limit of 35 microgrammes.

Magistrates in west Kent, gave him a driving ban for 20 months, which could be reduced if he pays £160 and completes a driving course. He was also fined £250 and costs of £85.

He was stopped while driving a silver VW Polo on January 24. The car was also found to have faults.

Speeding checks

POLICE issued nine speeding tickets and a court summons after conducting random checks on motorists using the A25 through Borough Green.

Patrol officers carried out the clampdown on speeding motorists on Maidstone Road on Saturday and Sunday, February 14-15, after families complained about the issue.

Neighbourhood officer PC Daphne Allen said: "The officers will continue to carry out checks along the A25, supporting their neighbourhood colleagues who also monitor the area. The residents' concerns are very understandable. Speed is a significant factor in many road traffic collisions."

Breakfast boost for district's businesses

A STRING of free business breakfast events are being staged in Sevenoaks, Edenbridge and Swanley.

Free and open to all businesses in the district, the events provide networking opportunities and the chance to find out about the range of business support available.

They are organised by Sevenoaks District Council in partnership with Business Link Kent.

On Thursday, March 11, it will take place at the Stag Community Arts Centre. On March 18 at Edenbridge Leisure Centre and on March 25 at Swanley's White Oak Indoor Bowls Centre.

Breakfast will be available from 7.30am. Any business representatives interested in attending will be required to book in advance.

To attend or to find out more on the events contact www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/business or call 01732 227000.

Stars applaud win

A HORSE sanctuary in Tenterden is set to scoop a top award at the House of Lords this week.

The Horse Refuge is set to be named Best Horse Sanctuary at the Wetnose Animal Aid awards ceremony on March 3 at a star-studded event in the Cholmondeley Room in Westminster.

The awards aim to promote and champion smaller, less well-know rescue organisations.

A spokesman for the event said: "With a huge 45 per cent drop in donations last year, many have struggled against all the odds to keep open, and our aim is to give them some much-needed publicity - plus a small reward by way of a trophy for years of dedicated work. They are the forgotten people of the animal world."

Among the famous faces attending will be MP Ann Widdecombe, Nick Knowles, John Altman, Anthea Turner, Lorraine Chase, Jenny Seagrove, and DJ David Hamilton.

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Young people demonstrate their talents at conference

PERFORMANCES of modern classics by Oasis and a homage to the Whoopi Goldberg film Sister Act, were among the events at a young people's conference.

Students from across Sevenoaks took part in and organised the event earlier this month, which aimed to challenge the often negative perception of young people by showcasing their achievements and talents.

Cllr Pat Bosley, Sevenoaks District Council's member with responsibility for young people's issues, said: "The conference was a fantastic experience, brilliantly organised by Wildernesse pupils.

"I was privileged to talk with so many enthusiastic, motivated young people who were a credit to their schools.

"Not only did it highlight the many good things young people are involved in, it gave pupils the opportunity to have their say on important issues face-to-face with influential members of the community and decision makers."

Pupils from Bradbourne, Furness, Hextable, Milestone, Dorton House and Valance schools and Swanley Technology College joined Wilnernesse at the event.

There were live music and dance performances, with brothers Jonathan and Andrew from Wildernesse singing Oasis and Tom from Hextable's rendition of Nina Simone's Feeling Good. Members of the Dorton House School choir performed the homage to Sister Act, which got everyone dancing.

Workshops included a 'healthy lunch box cook off challenge' where teams competed against the clock to create a healthy and tasty lunch for school.

Students also had the chance to question councillors, newspaper editors, a headmaster, police officer, paramedic and youth worker.

Clare Grant takes a look at how a redundant church with

Almighty success

THE square tower of Trinity Theatre stands out on the panorama map on the top of Mount Ephraim, and its black-stained sandstone contrasts with the red bricks and white stucco of the houses on London Road.

In 1974, the Church of Holy Trinity on Church Road was declared to be 'redundant to pastoral needs' by the church commissioners. By May 1975, draft plans were on the table for its demolition.

But the residents of Tunbridge Wells were not prepared to lose another piece of work by Decimus Burton, the architect behind this atmospheric Gothic church made from locally quarried sandstone.

It was consecrated on September 3, 1829. Burton, who put has stamp firmly on Tunbridge Wells – and also on the seaside towns of St Leonards and Fleetwood – was born in 1800. His handiwork can also be seen in Tunbridge Wells' Hotel du Vin and in the great sandstone houses along Calverley Park. His town hall was demolished in the early 1950s to make way for the civic centre.

As a result of hard petitioning by Tunbridge Wells Civic Society, the church commissioners stayed the execution. In October 1975, the society was told it had one year to find a community or public use for the church building. At this point, Tunbridge Wells Theatre Club joined the fray. The club had been around since 1946, but had never had a place of its own.

Caroline Elliott, who was a member in 1977, said: "The Tunbridge Wells Theatre Club had been homeless and we wanted a theatre.

"We were put in touch with the Civic Society. They hadn't got the funds, and we hadn't got the funds, but we got together and between us we got it going."

Six months later, the commissioners were handed a plan to restore the church and convert it into an arts centre – subject to the commission being satisfied with the finances.

Six months and a lot of hard work later, the appeal committee had £50,000 in its coffers. At the start of January 1977, the church commissioners accepted the scheme was viable and the Diocese of Rochester handed over the lease.

"It was almost a shell," said Mrs Elliott, remembering the beginnings of the work. "But you could see the potential."

It took five years to transform the neglected church.

The team faced dry rot and damaged stonework. But the work was done, and in 1982, the theatre welcomed paying audiences into its 300-seat auditorium.

HOLY DAYS: Top, Trinity in its days as a church, below, contractors work to eradicate dry rot from the roof beams during the conversion

Was there much opposition to the use of a former church as a theatre? Mrs Elliott shakes her head.

"We hoped we were doing a social community thing, like a church would be doing, but without the religion. It's a community building."

Next, in 1984 following a grant of £15,000 from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, came heating, a licensed bar and the gallery. This gallery is now leased to the Town and Country Foundation, which allows artists to hire it for free in exchange for workshops or artwork. In 1996, the National Lottery handed over £600,000 for new seats, a computerised box office and an access ramp.

In 2000, The Heritage Lottery Fund financed the restoration of the

Agents are helping to house our heroes

A CHARITY which helps homeless former servicemen and women has appointed Martin & Co as its preferred letting agent.

Homes for Heroes was set up by a group of recently retired officers with a mission to help forces personnel purchase property.

It also aims to donate 50 per cent of profits to forces charities that support homeless ex-servicemen and women, of which there are currently about 5,000 in the UK.

For those who buy property to rent as an investment, Martin & Co have been chosen to provide a comprehensive letting service through their network of more than 170 offices nationwide – including one in Vale Road, Tunbridge Wells.

In addition the agent will contribute £100 for every fully managed property instruction to the nominated charities of Homes for Heroes.

Mark Burdge of Martin & Co said: "We are pleased to be able to support such worthy charities that help those who have fought for our country – a particularly relevant subject at the moment."

architectural heritage was carefully transformed into the thriving Trinity Theatre

of community venture

tower and the stained glass windows.

Today, you are likely to find the box office manned by volunteers; and the ushers who shepherd you to your seats receive nothing but a free (standing) view of the show. Even the present artistic manager, John Martin is a volunteer.

From the very start, the theatre has relied upon people who believe the town deserves a theatre that can offer productions that are a bit out of the ordinary.

Many of these believers are named on the seats – next time you catch a show at Trinity, turn round and find the little brass plaque that tells you who donated your seat.

Mrs Elliott remembers in particular one hero from the early days: "There was a gentleman called Herbert Storey.

"He had worked on a similar project up north and he had the knowledge and the skills to direct people."

Does Mrs Elliot have any advice for someone with a similar project in hand?

"Go ahead and do it. Get the support of the community first to see that you need a theatre, and then involve as many people as you can from all walks of society."

The theatre continues to involve people of all ages, drawing in crowds with its varied programme of film, music and theatre. It also runs a theatre workshop for young people aged eight to 19.

Friends of Trinity membership costs £20 per person or £35 joint, and benefits include a newsletter, four free coffees at the theatre café, priority booking, discounts on tickets and invitations to special events. The theatre also honours people and organisations who give larger gifts, naming them cherubs or angels, depending on the size of the donation. For more information see www.trinitytheatre.net or call 01892 678678.

If you would like to volunteer, call 01892 500677.

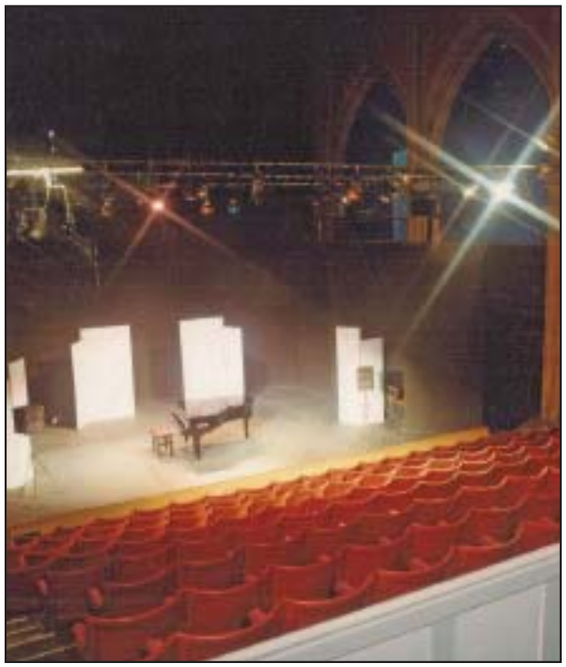
PULL UP A PEW: Right, the then treasurer and chairman remove pews from the church's gallery

FACT FILE

One of the theatre's best-kept secrets is the stained glass window at the back of the stage, normally concealed by the backdrop.

It is the work of Joseph Hale Miller, who in the early 19th century, rediscovered lost medieval techniques in which the glass was pieced together by lead.

A good opportunity to see the window in all its glory can be had during Tunbridge Wells Civic Society's Heritage Open Day in late summer.



TODAY: Rows of seats wait to be filled before a performance

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Driving for safety on our roads

Police crackdown will target 'irresponsible' motorists

By **JANE BARLOW**
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

A CRACKDOWN on speeding and irresponsible driving is to be launched in Tunbridge Wells in the spring.

As well as tackling those who go too fast, it will also target drivers who don't wear seatbelts, those who use their mobile phones while at the wheel and others who are over the drink-drive limit.

Police will be out in force across the district and will pay particular attention to routes where residents have expressed concerns.

They will work in conjunction with the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership to catch speeding drivers, and officers and police community support officers will be out with hand-held speed detection devices across the borough.

Insp Simon Wilshaw said: "Residents of Tunbridge Wells regularly raise speeding as a concern which is why we are tackling it.

"It is a concern they raise with us at Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, with the local council and when speaking to officers out on patrol.

"Across the county it is a force priority to reduce the number of people who are killed or seriously injured in road accidents and there will be regular operations across the county to address this with the aim of driving down the figures.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA: Police will be out in force with speed cameras concentrating on areas of concern to residents which have been mentioned to Inspector Simon Wilshaw (right)

"There are four main causes of collisions: driving under the influence of drink or drugs; excessive speed; the use of mobile phones; and the failure to wear seatbelts."

Police in Tunbridge Wells recently took action in Southborough following concerns in the area about speeding which were raised by residents and the parish council, after an accident near the primary school at the Yew Tree Road and Powder Mill Lane junction.

They monitored traffic in the area and are now working with Southborough Town Council and Kent Highway Services to see if traffic calming measures could be installed. They have also spoken to pupils at the primary school and parents about road safety.

Insp Wilshaw said: "We wanted to make the children aware of road safety and to ask parents not to ignore the road markings near the school.

"The neighbourhood task team has visited and enforced parking restrictions and messages have gone out in school newsletters asking parents to park in a more considerate way.

"We took a good look at the area and found road markings were not clear. We told Kent Highways and they have repainted white lines."

Police are also tackling speeding through Community Speedwatch, a scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic in their local area.

It enables trained volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally. Many community Speedwatch schemes across the county are run in conjunction with parish councils.

Volunteers are trained to use hand-held speed devices which can record a vehicle's speed. If a driver is caught speeding the registration number is taken down and given to the police. The driver will then receive a warning letter from the police.

If problems persist in a certain location then police officers will go there and carry out enforcement.

Insp Wilshaw said: "When motorists see speed checks taking place it reminds them to slow down and to watch their speed.

"One of the worst parts of a police officer's job is knocking on someone's door and telling them a loved one has died as a result of a road traffic collision."

Aside from the human cost of road accidents there is also a financial consideration.

Insp Wilshaw estimates that the average road traffic collision costs in excess of £1 million, with this total including damage to the vehicle, the cost of the emergency services attending the scene, resulting road closures and the knock-on effect these can have on local businesses and the local economy.

During the spring, police in Tunbridge Wells will be tackling all forms of anti-social driving. This will also include those who cause a nuisance with mini-motorbikes.

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CHRIS BRITCHER

The cold hard facts aren't always to everyone's taste

BEING an expert in a particular subject is something of a minefield.

If you like music or a particular act, you constantly teeter on the brink of being an intolerable bore of the highest order for whom entering into small talk with frequently resembles a round of Russian roulette.

Mention a teenage adoration of Bros and the flood gates could open, leaving the hapless-Bros fan fighting for breath and slumping into unconsciousness beneath a wave of facts and figures of just why someone they've never heard of is the only true musical genius and everyone should immediately put down their guitars and drum sticks and never bother us again with their tuneless racket.

If movies are your thing, you walk the same tightrope. Dare the unsuspecting suggest having seen the latest blockbuster and risk a barrage of criticism and scorn poured upon their trip to the picture house?

Can they risk having an hour of you discussing the finer points of a particular director's style when, actually, they could not care less, as long as the story's good, there's a happy ending and Daniel Craig's in it?

Much safer, then, to be an expert in something that people will only discuss on the most basic of levels. Like nuclear physics. Or brain surgery. Where there must be only a few standard responses before the subject matters gets so complex the expert realises they've lost you, and you realise you are hopelessly out of your depth.

My specialist subject though is, I believe, somewhere in between those two stools. It's about a food type. But don't get excited. I don't know the perfect way to cook a joint of lamb. Or how to create the perfect roast potato. Nothing so useful, I'm afraid.

I simply know, as a cast iron certainty, baked beans should always, without fail, be served cold. There… simple as that.

Should you ever have the misfortune to engage me in this topic at a dinner party (and I appreciate that would take some conversation twists and turns to get us onto that subject) then I will be steadfast and committed in my expert opinion on this.

Because the hard fact is they need to be cold. Need to be tasted and rolled around your mouth like a wine taster swirls a crisp Sauvignon Blanc around his tastebuds.

And, quite frankly, that simply is not possible when the sauce has hint of heat. Or the bean is more baked than when it first emerged kicking and screaming from wherever it was, well, baked. Ideally, and try it if you've never done this, refrigerate them first. Honestly.

I can offer no real greater insight into this fine culinary creation. I'd like to say I know its history. How the naked bean was once accidentally dropped into a box of tomatoes and lo and behold a taste sensation was formed. But I even just made that bit up. My expertise is just that cold fact.

Granted, I could blither on for a bit about the pros and cons of particular brands of beans – an expertise collected over years of devotion to the cause. But you may have made your excuses by that stage and taken your plate of vol au vents elsewhere (and who would blame you?).

Which, after all these years on this Earth, is a pretty miserable expertise to have.

If indeed it is an expertise at all. Probably best I go and read up on something a bit more interesting, and, as a word of warning, just remember the face at the top of the page.

If you see it, walk the other way. Quickly.

Chris Britcher is editor of this newspaper. Contact him with your news and views by emailing him direct: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

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LETTING DOWN THE HOMELESS

Rough sleepers get raw deal in west, says report

Something fishy

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances.

Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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You can access all KOS Media's other titles this way too.

Understanding our need

In response to H Turner's letter ('Mountain or molehill', letters, February 13/14) about the extent of the homeless problem in Tunbridge Wells.

Porchlight, which was established in 1974 as Canterbury Cyrenians, exists and is funded by the Kent Supporting People programme to support single homeless people who are not classed as being in priority need.

While we work closely in partnership with all local authorities in the county it is important to understand that councils only have a duty to those who are deemed vulnerable, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Single homeless people do not often fit these criteria.

As such, Porchlight has grown over the last 35 years to work right across the county supporting some of our most vulnerable and excluded citizens.

We are working with approximately 600 people at any one time that are either rough sleeping, in supported accommodation or receiving support to keep their homes.

Currently our Kent Outreach Service, the largest in the country to support rough sleepers and those in temporary accommodation, is working to find long-term accommodation for three rough sleepers in Tunbridge Wells with a further 24 on the waiting list in the area.

It is also important to point out that homelessness does not necessarily mean rough sleeping. Many of the individuals we work with are living in unsuitable temporary accommodation eg. cars, bin sheds or 'sofa-surfing' at friends' houses.

Although not visibly homeless to the public, or indeed deemed as in priority need, they are still vulnerable and often have a lot of complex issues that need to be addressed before they can start to live independently again. It is an unfortunate fact that if all the agencies supporting these individuals were removed the issue would be far more visible.

In 2009, as part of the Government's No One Left Out strategy Porchlight was named as an Ending Rough Sleeping Champion.

We work hard to change negative attitudes towards homelessness and I would like to thank your paper for highlighting the issue to its readers and giving them the opportunity to understand the scale and complexities of the issue.

Our freephone helpline number 0800 567 7699 can be used by members of the public to let us know about anyone they feel needs our help.

If anyone would like to find out more about our work I would like to invite them to visit our website at www.porchlight.org.uk

Mark Parry, communications and press officer, Porchlight

Logistically speaking

With reference to the row over the vicar criticised for calling for women to obey their husbands.

I don't believe in blind obedience. Both genders have a complementary interactive part to play in a relationship.

But, in situations where logic is the most important consideration, it seems men are more blessed in this direction and their approach should be considered more fully.

Some women do seem unable/unwilling to think logically. Sure, logic is not always the most important approach, but I am referring to situations where it is.

Brian Lamb, comment posted on website

Figures don't add up

With reference to the reporting of a recent public consultation showing that the new academy in Sevenoaks enjoys widespread support with 62 per cent in favour of the proposals.

This is completely false and misleading. The academy's own survey shows that 53 per cent of respondents who were either parents or carers indicated they were not in favour of the academy.

This is hardly 'overwhelming support'.

The survey was so skewed to provide Kent County Council with 'yes'-style answers that only 326 replies were received and 53 per cent said no.

K Maxwell, Sevenoaks

Not seeing big picture

Once again all talk of the future of the cinema site appears to be evaporating fast.

And we are left with perhaps one of the biggest eye-sores Tunbridge Wells has suffered in recent years.

Can anyone explain, please, just what is going on?

Amy Stevens, email

VOTE NOW...

Each week, we'll be giving you the chance to make your voice heard online on a major issue.

This week we want your views on the Gordon Brown bullying stories which have made headlines all week. The allegations have come just as Labour appeared to be improving in the polls ahead of this year's General Election.

So our question this week is simple: Have the bullying allegations levelled at the Prime Minister influenced your decision on who to vote for in the upcoming elections?

Simply answer 'yes' or 'no' by voting on our websites – www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk, www.yourtonbridge.co.uk and www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Would health warnings on alcohol bottles make you drink less?

• Unfortunately, due to a technical hitch, this poll did not run. Apologies to those who tried to vote.

Letters continue on page 30

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

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BIRTHS

COUCHMAN
David and Heather of Dover are delighted to announce the birth of their son Kieran Anthony Robert Couchman, born on 11th February 2010 at William Harvey Hospital. Our most beautiful and precious son.

JEYES-UJOODHA
Christine and Rohan celebrate the birth of their son Joshua Anthony Jeyes-Ujoodha on 13th February 2010.

KING
Lexy Amy King, born on 8th February 2010, weighing 5lbs 5ozs. Daughter to James and Kelly in Ramsgate.

LISTER
Daniel and Naomi celebrate the birth of their son Dylan Daniel Lister on 9th February 2010, weighing 8lbs 10oz.

NOAKES
Claire and Richard Noakes celebrate the birth of their son Charlie Thomas Noakes on 12th January 2010.

ORSZULAK
Artur and Kamila Orszulak celebrate the birth of their daughter Maja Orszulak on 12th February 2010.

PLANT
Georgina and David are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Maisie Fenn Whitlock Plant, born on the 18th February 2010 at Pembury Hospital. Happy to have you arrive, love Mum and Dad.

POWELL
Kirsty Powell of Herne Bay is pleased to announce the birth of Kairon Wayne Lee Powell on 18th February 2010, weighing 7lb 12oz.

RAMSDEN
Samantha is delighted to announce the birth of her beautiful daughter, Tudor-Rose Amalie Ann Olivia Ramsden, on 10th February 2010 at 05.37am weighing 8lb 12oz. A first grand-daughter for the very proud Margaret and Dean.

DEATHS

CARMAN
Gwen Carman died peacefully on February 11th, 2010. Funeral service at Grace Church, Grove Road, Mangravet, Maidstone at 1.30pm on 2nd March.

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Letters continued from page 29

Really Duff argument

Ray Duff should be a politician, he must have graduated at the Gordon Brown college of debating.

His grand obsession stops him from seeing the 'elephant in the room'.

He continually sidesteps the real issues I raised, that will lead to our demise long before his real or imagined man-made climate change would have its estimated effect.

He talks about 'facts'. These so-called 'facts' vary according to which 'experts' you talk to, who is paying them, their political allegiance and their own self interests.

Many of these 'facts' have only recently been shown to be speculation and wishful thinking.

Whereas, it's an incontrovertible fact the world is overpopulated, its finite and even seemingly infinite resources are being depleted at an unsustainable rate, the world is seriously polluted with chemicals, metals, minerals and gases other than CO2 and politicians still look to increasing everybody's material wealth at the expense of their slowly dying planet.

This is the danger of obsessives like Mr Duff, they misdirect people away from the real issues that need to be urgently addressed now.

Rather like a doctor more concerned about a patient's piles, while he's dying of cancer.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Crossing carbon divide

When the Dartford Tunnel was being promoted it was to relieve traffic congestion; when the Dartford Crossing was being imagined it too was to relieve congestion.

And now Kent County Council wants to spend £1 billion on a highly polluting additional crossing.

If steps had been taken to improve public transport in the past, this immense waste of money would never have occurred.

New road building does generate more traffic and longer journeys, as the Government's Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment has shown.

The Zero Carbon Britain report, available online, demonstrates that a combination of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies can deal with the UK's energy demand.

Since this report was produced, supporters of old and polluting technologies have not been able to fault its conclusions.

Contrary to Mr Taylor's belief, local planning authorities have no role in making planning decisions about solar water heating units or solar panels on any roof.

So long as they are below the roof line, there is no planning issue to address. And prices for these units are dropping steadily.

And, once again, the scientific consensus remains that human-induced climate change is a serious threat to the planet.

Thirteen of the scientific academies of major countries have indicated this, including our own Royal Society.

Opinion cannot refute this, only alternative scientific evidence that is hardly likely to be accepted by scientific bodies like the UK Met Office which have made their concerns about climate change abundantly clear.

Steve Dawe, press officer, Kent Green Party

Let us have our say

So David Cameron is going down in the polls?

The sad truth is that people do not trust him to plot the future of our country without them having a say.

Neither the Tories or Labour have the right to sell us out to Europe without the indigenous population having a referendum on it.

If you really want to win this next election then promise the people a referendum on Europe in the very near future.

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain as the people would be far more inclined to trust you.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Lib Dems' winning way

It has become clear that Liberal Democrats are not only influential at Westminster and in running many local councils, but are also the key players in securing cross-party agreements in Brussels that deliver for the people.

A recent analysis by the respected Votewatch organisation revealed the Lib Dems are on the winning side of more than 90 per cent of votes in the European Parliament.

But British Conservative and UKIP Euro-MPs are the least likely to win votes in the Parliament.

Thanks to David Cameron's idiotic move of pulling out of the big centre-right group in the European Parliament, his MEPs are losers while Lib Dems are winners.

Learning no lessons, Cameron has ordered Conservative councillors in the Committee of the Regions, the body that represents local government in the EU, also to leave the mainstream centre-right group.

Like their MEP colleagues, the Tories there too have been left without allies or influence.

The party that aspires to move into No10 is showing a great talent for being on the losing side.

Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP, Liberal Democrat European justice and human rights spokeswoman

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KENT ADULT EDUCATION

HADLOW COLLEGE

Kent County Council

£50k training programme to whet appetite

FOOD producers are to benefit from a new £50,000 training scheme offering courses on hygiene, retailing, marketing and butchery.

The programme will run throughout the year as part of a collaboration between the South East Food Group Partnership and LandSkills South East.

LandSkills South East will provide up to 70 per cent of the cost of the food courses, which are designed for small to medium-sized businesses.

A full programme can be found at www.southeastenglandfoodanddrink.co.uk/traininprogramme.

KENT County Council has taken on 30 young people as community support wardens after they had been unemployed for longer than six months.

Aged between 18 and 24, the recruits have been paired up with mentors who will teach them skills for future job opportunities.

KCC was able to offer each person 30 hours' paid work per week through the Government's Future Jobs Fund. Cabinet member Cllr Mike Hill said: "Community wardens play an important role in our county and we're delighted we can add extra support to the work they do and help these young people get into employment at the same time."

move 'n' smooth

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Since it was founded move'n'smooth has worked in conjunction with the NHS,Change4life,department of education the MEND child obesity programme and many more.

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change 4 life

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent

KOS Award Winning Company BUSINESS AWARDS 2009 NEW BUSINESS WINNER

Intern fund boosts Kent graduates

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE University of Kent has won a share of £13 million funding aimed at providing graduates with work experience and interview training.

As part of the Government's new internship scheme, 100 young people will be paired up with small businesses across the county so they can learn from the professionals before going for a full-time job.

The programme will be managed by the university's Kent Innovation and Enterprise (KIE) division, which exists to ensure the university's resources are easily accessible to businesses.

Director Carole Barron said the benefits for participating firms include having access to new skills and fresh talent, with graduates receiving work experience as well as pre-employment and interview training.

She added: "The funding has been made available to enable the university to place significantly more graduates with suitable organisations and to provide a meaningful experience for both the graduate and the employer.

"By undertaking a short-term internship, graduates increase their chance of being recruited on a permanent basis or of finding subsequent graduate-level work with another employer."

Launched by Prime Minister Gordon Brown earlier this month, the scheme is being managed on a national level by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in partnership with regional development agencies and higher education regional associations. The funding has been shared among 50 universities.

Mr Brown said: "We are committed to supporting young people as they develop in their careers, which is why we have invested over £13m in new internships, and in the training and mentoring of people taking them up."

It is hoped a total of 5,000 people nationally will benefit from the programme and move on to full-time employment.

Small businesses or graduates wishing to take advantage of the internship scheme can contact Kent Innovation and Enterprise on 01227 827376 or by emailing enterprise@kent.ac.uk.

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Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 639.

Closing date: Monday 8 March 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk

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We offer full training, flexible hours and good job satisfaction.
We will require proof of right to work in the UK, 2 full references, health questionnaire, CRB disclosure (£36) met by applicant.

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We offer full training, flexible hours and good job satisfaction.
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Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

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This project is supported by the European Social Fund
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Closing date for applications **5th March 2010.**

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Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 4-19 years with severe learning difficulties and is located on two sites at Strood and Rainham. The new appointment will be expected to work 20 hours per week (5 x 4 hour mornings), term time only to undertake reception/administrative duties at the school.

We are looking for somebody with:

- Good level of education, with GCSE's (or equivalent) in Maths and English
- Experience of using Microsoft Office (particularly Word and Excel)
- Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail
- Knowledge of school office work desirable
- Enthusiasm and a good sense of humour

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 5th March 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester,
Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338236),
stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

WALMER SCIENCE COLLEGE

Salisbury Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7QJ
Telephone : 01304 375212 Fax : 01304 380766
e-mail : admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk
Headteacher : Simon Heaton BSc (Hons). NPQH
MIXED 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL 800 ON ROLL

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2010
TEACHER OF ENGINEERING (MPS)

The successful applicant will be a well-qualified specialist, able to teach Engineering throughout the ability range, including BTec First Diploma, Level 2 and the Engineering Diploma Line at Levels 1 and 2. A new Engineering Suite has recently been opened within our Technology department. A comprehensive induction programme will be offered.

The successful applicant will:-
- be a creative practitioner with the ability to motivate students of all abilities;
- be enthusiastic and energetic;
- have a commitment to raising standards;
- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007).

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school.

Closing date : 9:30am, Friday, 5th March 2010

We value diversity in our workforce

[redacted]

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Closing date for applications - Friday, 5th March 2010.

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Electrical/Electronic Engineering Ref: P0678
Lecturer in Civil Engineering Ref: P0333
Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering Ref: P0219

Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum
Medway

We are looking to recruit outstanding individuals to teach and participate in the development of programmes across the Faculty of Advanced Construction and Engineering which includes Electronic, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering disciplines. The successful candidates will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in one or more of the above Engineering specialism's. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidates will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Foundation Learning Ref: SE567

Hourly rate: £22.64- £27.46
Maidstone/Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of the Life and Work Skills for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The successful candidate will have good communication skills, a patient and mature attitude and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Kitchen Assistant Ref: P0049

25 hours per week, 38 weeks per year
Salary: £14,588- £16,638 pro-rata
Maidstone

We are looking to recruit a Kitchen Assistant to provide kitchen support for our Apprentice Restaurant and to help both students and Lecturers in the Catering department. A background in catering is essential, plus basic food hygiene and Health and Safety certificates.

Closing date: Friday 5 March 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

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e-mail : admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk
Headteacher : Simon Heaton BSc (Hons). NPQH
MIXED 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL 800 ON ROLL

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

TEACHER OF SCIENCE(MPS)

This could either be a full-time or part-time post.
A comprehensive induction programme will be offered.

The post would be suitable for either NQTs or more experienced teachers. A comprehensive induction programme will be offered whatever your status.

The successful applicant will:-
- be a creative teacher with the ability to motivate students of all abilities;
- be enthusiastic and energetic;
- have a commitment to raising standards;
- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007).

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school

Closing date : 9:30am, Friday, 5th March 2010

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FULL TIME FINANCE ASSISTANT (Margate)

Previous applicants for the above post need not apply.

Closing date for applications – 16 March 2010

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Donna O'Connor, Finance Supervisor on 01843 234281

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road,
Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a
Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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Salary £26,940 – £30,738 per annum

The aim of the team is to improve the condition of housing in Thanet, so that people can live in safe and secure housing free from risks that might impair their health or well being.

We have 2 Housing Improvement Officer posts available. The main duties of these posts will be to meet the statutory duties of the Council with regard to Private Sector Housing, by enforcing national and local standards in housing and to implement a range of private sector housing initiatives, which provide solutions to local housing problems through education, persuasion and the provision of incentives.

One of the posts will focus on enforcement activity, whilst the other post will focus upon pro-active projects and policy work. Please ensure that you indicate which type of post you would prefer when applying.

You will be enthusiastic, hardworking, and be a team player. You will have relevant work experience in private sector housing, building surveying or environmental health and knowledge of legislation relating to Private Sector Housing. You must also have relevant qualifications in environmental health, building surveying or equivalent. Ideally you will be certified in the HHSRS but this is not essential as training will be given.
For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Tanya Wenham Housing Improvement Manager on 01843 577006 or Richard Hopkins Senior Housing Improvement Officer on 01843 577402.

The closing date for these positions is: Friday 5 March 2010
Interviews will be held: 16,17 and 18 March 2010

All posts include generous annual leave, flexible working (some posts excluded), a 37-hour week, subsidised bus pass, as well as access to the local government final salary pension scheme.

For an application form and job description for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on (01843) 577175 (24 hours), e-mail jobs.hrpartnership@dover.gov.uk or, download an application form from www.thanet.gov.uk/jobs. Applications to be returned to: East Kent H R Partnership, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield. Dover CT16 3PJ

Thanet District Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to employing people with disabilities. Any disabled applicant who meets the minimum criteria for the posts will be guaranteed an interview.

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Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 5th March 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road,
Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP
(Tel: 01634 338236)

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Monkshill Farm

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You will demonstrate commitment to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applications from all groups and communities. All positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure check, satisfactory references, proof of qualifications and a fully checkable work history.

For application packs please contact Human Resources Department
Telephone 01843 227561, email: hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk
Or download an application form from our website: www.townsendtrust.org

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Jobs for Kent continues on page 85...

KOS MEDIA
www.propertyforkent.co.uk

Review 28.02.10

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Thrilling encounter

MURDER MYSTERY IS DRAMATICALLY ENTERTAINING

PROPERTY Review
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Leolux B-Flat corner seating group	£11,400	£6995
Leolux Pastille chair	£3390	£1995
Pinetum Quercus oak dining table & 4 chairs	£2245	£1395
Pinetum Quercus oak coffee table	£465	£269
Hulsta Lilac lowboard & shelf system	£8129	£4995
Eris marble lamp table	£435	£299
Eris marble coffee table	£745	£399
Calligaris wicker bar stool	£156	£99
Leolux Cherubino occasional table	£1730	£1385
Ligne Roset Myriade round glass lamp table	£445	£295
Leolux Voici occasional table	£595	£479
Pinetum 3 drawer oak bedside chest	£490	£295
Pinetum ladies oak wardrobe	£1559	£995
Pinetum oak 3+4 drawer chest	£1845	£1195
Royal Oak dressing table + stool	£4045	£1995
Grange Indochine 3 drawer chest	£1581	£1185
Grange Directoire round drinks cabinet	£967	£495

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Grange Directoire bedframe (4'6")	£2360	£1175
Relyon Canterbury kingsize headboard	£318	£149
Relyon Ambassador bedbase	£699	£299
Crozier cream painted bedside tables (pair)	£1390	£495
Hulsta Lilac gloss white bedside cabinets (pair)	£3814	£1495
Hulsta Tamis wardrobe set	£7006	£3995
Relyon Supreme Embrace single divan set	£3290	£1495
Hastens Classis Adjustable single bed	£3190	£1495
Hastens Naturally Adjustable single bed	£3000	£1495
Hastens Citation Adjustable single bed with massage	£8490	£5499
Titchmarsh & Goodwin oak child's chair	£559	£447
Skovby SM101 Maple multi-function table + 4 chairs	£2583	£1549
Grange Vintage wide console table	£1595	£1195
Grange Consulat cherry bookcase	£1375	£825
Titchmarsh & Goodwin oak dining table with 4 chairs and 2 carvers	£13,120	£7850
Ligne Roset Entre Vue armchairs (pair)	£1810	£799
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IN MY VIEW

By Steve Knight

Enjoy a bite of the horror action

WOLFMAN (15)

SOMETIMES you just want to watch a film without having to think too much about what is going on and why.

For people with relatively small attention spans like me, it can be easy to misunderstand why he did that, who those people were or what that woman was doing to that alien.

Thankfully with a film like The Wolfman – a remake of the 1941 flick which helped define the genre – you don't have to be a philosopher to appreciate the action unfurling before you.

It stars Benicio del Toro as Shakespearean actor Lawrence Talbot, who returns to his homeland of Blackmoor, England, after his brother Ben is mauled in the woods by a demonic half-man, half-beast.

Keen to avenge his sibling's death, Lawrence heads off into the woods to track down the werewolf responsible, only to be bitten on the neck before the pitchfork brigade come to his rescue.

However, the villagers are only too aware of Horror Film Rule No 198 (ie, somebody bitten by a werewolf will also become a werewolf) and so attempt to cart him off to the madhouse, with Insp Francis Aberline (Hugo Weaving) the main antagonist.

Fortunately for Lawrence his father, Sir John Talbot (Anthony Hopkins) is on hand to offer his son a safe haven, ably assisted by his "Sikh manservant" Singh (Art Malik) and Ben's grieving fiancée Gwen Conliffe (Emily Blunt).

But as Lawrence battles to cope with his new-found alter ego (which of course only emerges when it's a full moon), he discovers his family has for years been hiding a very dark secret.

Overall The Wolfman is a fun enough movie, with plenty of moments to make you jump, wince in disgust and even laugh.

One particularly enjoyable moment in the film occurs when a German professor wheels Lawrence out in front of a group of students to prove that he is only a werewolf in his own mind.

I don't need to tell you what happens when the full moon appears, but rest assured there's plenty of panic as well as a healthy amount of blood and guts flying about.

There are also strong performances from Hopkins and Weaving in particular, who as Hannibal Lector and Agent Smith (of The Matrix) respectively, have made evil an art form.

But let's face it – if you've seen one werewolf flick, you've pretty much seen them all. And despite the advancements in special effects, in terms of quality this still falls some way short of An American Werewolf in London, which was made almost 30 years ago.

There are better options out there at the moment, but for 100-odd minutes of tried-and-trusted B-movie type horror, The Wolfman is at least worth a look.

CINEMA

LEAP YEAR (PG)

THE luck of the Irish runs out for one hopeless romantic in Anand Tucker's implausible comedy, so it does, to be sure, to be sure.

Promoting a stereotypical image of rural Ireland which would make Father Ted and his flock roll their eyes in disbelief and shout, "Begorrah!", Leap Year is a sappy road movie that clearly signposts every tiny pothole in the path to true love.

This jaunt across the Emerald Isle brings together two strangers on a hare-brained adventure that ultimately brings them together.

To say the lead characters are an unlikely match would be an understatement: She's a fiercely independent interior designer from Boston with money to burn; he's a lackadaisical chef from the nether regions of Ireland, about to lose his pub to the debt collectors.

Never the twain shall meet, except in the screenplay by Deborah Kaplan and Harry Elfont, they must. The eejits.

Anna Brady is deliriously happy with her cardiologist boyfriend Jeremy and as their four-year anniversary approaches, she becomes convinced he is about to get down on bended knee. He doesn't, and heads off to Dublin instead for a conference.

Following the lead of her father, Anna spontaneously hatches a plan to propose to Jeremy in Ireland on Leap Day.

Leap Year is a terrible waste of Oscar nominee Amy Adams' undeniable talents.

It comes as no surprise that screenwriters Kaplan and Elfont were responsible for the Patrick Dempsey romantic comedy Made Of Honor, which painted Scotland as one big, bonnie, tartan-clad cliche.

They clumsily contrive each slapstick interlude, building to a happy ending set on a windswept cliff top at sunset.

All that's missing is a rainbow to lead the lovebirds to some jolly little leprechauns and a pot o' gold.

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE (15)

PARIS: The city of romantic overtures, fine cuisine, sartorial elegance, and car chases.

Director Pierre Morel returns to the scene of previous cinematic crimes for this explosive tour of the capital in the company of two mismatched American agents on a quest to dismantle a terrorist cell.

Morel's last film, Taken, at least had the good sense to cast Liam Neeson, an actor with gravitas, in the underwritten lead role of a father seeking justice.

Here, he's lumbered with the handsome yet inexpressive Jonathan Rhys Meyers, and John Travolta, an actor who has never been on speaking terms with subtlety and nuance.

Ironically, it is Travolta's voracious scenery-chewing and wide-eyed ravings which turn out to be the guilty pleasure of From Paris With Love, an otherwise dumb action adventure that clumsily pilfers scenes from the Bourne trilogy.

Cast as a renegade US operative with a twitchy trigger finger, the Oscar-nominated star is the one member of cast to treat Adi Hasak's script with the disdain it deserves.

And, in a cute nod to former glories, his remarkably athletic agent also gets to share his love of the local gastronomic delights.

"Here, the locals call my vice a Royale with cheese," he grins, barely resisting an urge to wink playfully at the camera.

Government agent James Reese (Meyers) is desperate to impress the powers that be, and graduate from his current position as an ambassadorial aide.

He gets his chance when he is asked to help Charlie Wax (Travolta) pass through Parisian customs and complete his secret anti-terrorism peace mission.

Unexpectedly partnered with a fast-talking stranger who turns out to be a gun-toting lunatic, James struggles to understand what his role in the mission might be as Charlie shoots anyone and everyone in his path.

In the process, James acquires a vase full of cocaine and an incredibly tall tale to impart to his doting, seamstress girlfriend, Carolina.

From Paris With Love is nonsense from lacklustre start to pyrotechnic laden finish, hinging weakly on the non-existent chemistry between the two male leads.

Our au revoir to James and Charlie cannot come soon enough.

ROAD TRIP:Leap Year takes us on a journey across the Emerald Isle

EVERYBODY'S FINE (12A)

IF HOLLYWOOD has taught us anything over the decades, it's that resentment, regret and anguish simmer beneath the surface of almost every seemingly perfect family.

And, yes, the title of Kirk Jones's gently paced journey of self-discovery is ironic.

Anchored by a warm and engaging lead performance from Robert De Niro as a lonely widower who hopes to reconnect his fractured family, Everybody's Fine hits every emotional note we expect as it proves the people we lie to the most are the ones we hold most dear.

Frank Goode (De Niro) has spent his life manufacturing the coating on millions of miles of telephone wires, which now separate him from his four children.

Alone in a house he once shared with his wife, Frank organises a get together, only for all four offspring to cancel at the last minute.

Unperturbed, Frank decides to pay surprises visits to his two sons and two daughters, despite a harsh warning from his doctor: "Fibrosis of the lungs requires you to take things easy. You know that."

First, he heads to New York to visit talented artist David but the young man isn't home. Next, it's a short journey to Chicago to advertising agency executive Amy, her husband Jeff and son Jack, who can't wait to get rid of the old man. Denver is the next stop on Frank's odyssey to surprise classical musician Robert, who is content with his role in the percussion section.

Then it's off to Las Vegas for a rendezvous with dancer Rosie, who is the first of the brood to seem genuinely glad to see Frank.

Like her siblings, the talented dancer is keeping secrets from her father, not least the actual whereabouts of David.

Everybody's Fine is an unusual choice for De Niro, who slouches into his role as a man dependant on medication that we are sure will run out before the final leg of his trek.

As expected, there are tears and reconciliation to heal old wounds in the nick of time.

Frank's snapshots from his travels appear over the end credits along with Polaroids of the children, leaving us with a warm if cheap, sentimental glow.

WHERE TO WATCH WHAT'S ON

ASHFORD CINEWORLD MULTIPLEX
Eureka Leisure Park ✆ Box office 0871 2208000

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High Street ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

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Water Circus, South Village ✆ Box office 0871 2201000

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CANTERBURY ODEON
St George's Place ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

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170 High Street ✆ Box office 01634 338338

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FAVERSHAM ROYAL
9 Market Place ✆ Box office 01795 591211

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GULBENKIAN THEATRE
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HAWKHURST KINO
Victoria Hall, Rye Road ✆ Box office 01580 754321

HERNE BAY KAVANAGH
Herne Bay Leisure Centre ✆ Box office 01227 362228

MAIDSTONE ODEON
Lockmeadow ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

RAMSGATE GRANVILLE
The Esplanade ✆ Box office 01843 591750

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Medway Valley Park ✆ Box office 08701 560568

SANDWICH EMPIRE
Delf Street ✆ Box office 01304 620480

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High Street ✆ Box office 01795 426018

TRINITY ARTS CENTRE
Church Road, Tunbridge Wells
✆ Box office 01892 678678

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ODEON
Knights Way ✆ Box office 0871 22 44007

VUE, WESTWOOD CROSS
Broadstairs ✆ Box office 08712240240

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Jazz duo finally make it to county

JAZZ fans will be in heaven on Sunday night when two top vocalists visit Kent.

One of the country's most popular jazz singers, the highly acclaimed Ian Shaw, pictured, is an act not to be missed by anyone who enjoys quality entertainment. Shaw was due to perform in Maidstone in December, but snow stopped play so the concert was rescheduled to this weekend. He will be joined by Tina May, whose voice has been hailed as having the ability to 'melt the stoniest of hearts'.

Crowned the BBC Best Jazz Vocalist in 2004 and 2007, Shaw is widely considered one of the world's best singers in the genre. His career began on the alternative cabaret circuit and he entertained audiences alongside acts like Julian Clary, Rory Bremner and Jo Brand. He eventually made the move into jazz and over the years he has collaborated with great names from John Dankworth to Barb Jungr.

Tina May discovered her jazz voice while studying at university, a year in Paris as part of her degree gave her the chance to work with talented musicians. She also has connections to the alternative circuit, having uncovered a comic talent and teamed up with Rory Bremner for a review show early in her career.

Shaw and May will be at the Pizza Express Music Room in Maidstone at 7.30pm on Sunday and tickets cost £16.

To book visit www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.

Full steam ahead

ALL aboard for a free ride on the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

On Sunday, March 28, the attraction will be helping to launch the new Weald Big Day Out, which offers people the chance to experience a fantastic day of fun for no charge. The railway is offering 100 pairs of free tickets to those who apply first online at www.kesr.org.uk.

The booking form to register your interest goes live on Monday and the railway's own booking office will manage the requests. So visit the website and do not miss out on your chance to enjoy a free day out on the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

The railway is also taking part in the Kent Big Day Out, which is now in its fourth year and takes place across the county on Saturday, March 27. Tickets are now available from visitor information centres and at www.kentbigdayout.co.uk.

Anyone who is interested in railways or simply enjoys a great day out in the Kentish countryside will love a journey on the Kent & East Sussex Railway. Climb aboard at the Tenterden or Northiam stations and enjoy the stunning landscape, disembarking at Bodiam to explore the fascinating Bodiam Castle, which will be hosting a Discovering the Past event during the weekend of two Big Days Out. Normal castle admission applies but anyone with a K&ESR ticket can enjoy discounted entry of £5 for adults or £2.50 for children.

To find out more visit www.kesr.org.uk or call 01580 765155.

Have a laugh with the two Howards

LITTLE Howard discovers the pencil that drew him in a new family show from the popular comic character.

Along with his human friend Big Howard, the animated six-year-old is visiting Tunbridge Wells next weekend with his exciting new stage show, Little Howard and the Magic Pencil of Life and Death. The little boy faces incredible forces in this funny and interactive production, which follows the success of BBC television show, Little Howard's Big Question.

Little Howard is excited when he discovers the pencil that drew him, but disaster looms when he finds the Eraser of Death on the other end of the magical instrument.

With its comedy, 3D animation and cheerful songs, the show is a great theatrical experience. Little Howard and Big Howard have appeared at the Royal Variety Performance, winning over the audience with the world's first human-cartoon double act.

The show can be seen at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, at 2pm on Saturday, March 6, and tickets cost £12.50/£10. Book at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.

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SHOWS

The Orchard
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Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1ED

The Hobbit
Tue 23 – Sun 28 Feb
Join Gandalf the Sorcerer as he leads Bilbo Baggins and his Dwarf companions off on a frightening but magical journey.
Tickets: £11.00 - £26.50
Concessions available

Jongleurs
Fri 5 Mar
The world famous comedy club heads to Dartford offering the perfect way to get your weekend off to a hilarious start.
Tickets: £12.00

Stop Messing About
Mon 8 - Sat 13 March
Set during a BBC Radio live recording, packed with outrageously funny sketches transporting you back to a time when comedy meant being funny.
Tickets: £15.00 - £22.00

The Dubliners
Sun 14 March
After the public reaction to their sell-out show at home in Ireland, The Dubliners bring their concert to Dartford.
Tickets: £19.50, £21.50

Tony Stockwell
Mon 15 March
It's not creepy, or kooky, mysterious or spooky. It's Tony Stockwell demonstrating his belief that those who have passed on can communicate with us.
Tickets: £18.50, £20.50

Circus of Horrors
Tue 16 March
The Undead Ringmaster Doktor Haze will guide you through an uncontrollable cast of the world's greatest and grotesque Circus acts.
Tickets: £10.00 - £24.50
Concessions available

The Sopranos
Wed 17 March
An evening full of glitz, glamour and oodles of personality, the stunning Sopranos enthrall the audience with timeless Broadway & Opera classics.
Tickets: £19.50
Concessions available

The Hollies
Thu 18 March
A night of pure Hollies with Tony Hicks, Peter Howarth, Ian Parker, Steve Laurie, Ray Stiles and Bobby Elliott.
Tickets: £22.50, £24.50

Ticket Office: 01322 220000 www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
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WEEKEND • FOOD AND DRINK

With **MELISSA WOODLAND**

Stuff yourself with a gorgeous globe

LEARNING to cook seasonally means you have to be a little braver about trying new things.

Though there are many dishes you would happily try if you were served them in a restaurant, learning to cook them yourself is a different matter altogether.

Take artichokes for example, they are delicious this time of year but there are so many types and varieties to choose from, you might not know where to start.

As part of our regular look at seasonal food, we've asked Gilles Caisey, head chef at Vaudreys Restaurant in Hildenborough, to help us out.

He said: "There are three different types of artichoke in season during February and March; Jerusalem, Chinese and globe.

"The first two aren't really artichokes at all – they're actually root vegetables. So we're just going to take a look at the genuine article, the globe.

"It's a very diverse vegetable – there are over 50 varieties. Some are green, some purple, some even have spines. And they come in a sliding scale of sizes.

"At the moment I have two artichoke-based dishes on the menu.

To begin

"The first, a starter, is a baby artichoke salad with poached quail eggs and a lemon and lime dressing.

"Start by 'turning' a few small artichokes. This is a lot more straightforward than it looks. Simply remove the outer leaves and take off the skin with a turning knife.

"Drop them into a bowl of water with a squeeze of lemon juice to stop them going brown, and then pan-fry them in oil and a touch more lemon, add vegetable stock and braise for a few minutes. Scoop out the middle bit and throw it away. Your artichokes are now ready to eat.

For the meal

"The other dish is a delicious vegetarian main course of stuffed artichoke.

"Boil the whole vegetable for about 25 minutes (add a bit of lemon and flour to the water to keep the flesh inside white), then remove the outer leaves (try eating the tips of the leaves with some French dressing later). Fill it with Provençal vegetables and fresh mozzarella, and serve with new potatoes and a tomato and garlic dressing.

"My top tip is when you're at the local greengrocers choosing your artichoke, make sure you go for one that's really dark green in colour and a good weight.

"The lighter the outer leaves, the older the vegetable, plus the heavier it is, the bigger the delicious heart in the centre."

As a final piece of advice he adds: "Remember the artichoke is like a flower – its leaves are like petals that bloom. Pick one that is closed up tight – it will be fresher and more tasty."

• ***Vaudreys 01732 832944***

IN BRIEF

Something fishy

LITTLE Mount Sion's Down Town Fish Bar has been named the best fish and chip restaurant in the UK.

The takeaway, which first opened 40 years ago and is now owned by Reg Singh, won a competition set by Esquire magazine.

They had asked readers to nominate a shop that could out-fry their own favourite chippy in Soho. Down Town was crowned the winner.

New strategy

PARENTS and politicians around the country have reacted with anger at the news that children as young as seven are being recruited to promote soft drinks and snack foods to their friends.

Kids are being paid up to £25 per week by a marketing company to sample products following a tightening up of the rules on targeting to junior consumers.

Dinner for two

IF YOU feel like taking a break from cooking this week, Mexican restaurant Zapata is offering paella for two, together with a jug of sangria or bottle of wine for £24.50.

The traditional seafood special is available Sunday to Thursday at both the Tunbridge Wells (The Pantiles) and Sevenoaks (London Road) branches.

Call 01892 513950 or 01732 464545 to book your table.

Packing up

TRADITIONAL materials used to package food could be abandoned in favour of more environmentally-friendly wrapping within five years.

Experts at Imperial College London have developed a method for creating a plastic-style material using sugar from trees and grasses.

This will mean that packaging could be composted with other organic waste instead of adding to landfill.

Hero helps you choose your dinner

THIS week's high street hero is a butcher who has made himself an intrinsic part of the Tunbridge Wells community.

Peter Speaight may only have opened the doors of his Chapel Place shop a year ago, but he has already established an enthusiastic following.

Peter is behind the counter most days and is a ready source of knowledge and inspiration, particularly when you have no idea what to cook for dinner.

In addition to the usual array of meat cuts and joints sourced from local farms, you can normally pick up some of his homemade sausages, a delicious stuffed pork loin or, if you fancy something a bit less labour-intensive, a ready made dinner of meatballs in tomato sauce.

Speaights is in fact more like a luxury food hall than a butchers. Shelves are packed with locally sourced preserves, juices and eggs. Further into the shop is a well-stocked deli counter and freshly roasted joints of beef and honey-glazed ham make for tasty sandwich fillings. Pasties, giant Scotch eggs and sausage rolls are all made on site by Michelle and the gorgeous aromas wafting from the downstairs kitchen alert nearby workers that it's lunchtime.

But what really sets this place apart is the service. Newcomers are welcomed and regulars are greeted by name. It's the traditional approach to looking after customers.

It's also why there's regularly a queue of people winding out the door and along Chapel Place.

Next time you're at that end of the high street, pay them a visit.

• ***Peter Speaight, 15 Chapel Place. Telephone: 01892 616668.***

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EVENTS AND SHOWS

ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Jethro (pictured)
March 3 at 7.30pm
The wag from the Westcountry continues to fill theatres up and down the land, despite appearing on television just nine times in his long career. Containing adult material, the show is a treat for over-18s. Tickets cost £18. Book at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.

TRINITY THEATRE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Courtney Pine (pictured)
March 5 at 8pm
Enjoy an eclectic and exciting set from the groundbreaking saxophonist with Transition in Tradition, his homage to the first great sax star, Sidney Bechet. Pine's critically acclaimed 12th album also marks a move in new directions for this remarkable musician. Tickets cost £25. Call 01892 678678 or see www.trinitytheatre.net to book tickets.

STAG PLAZA, SEVENOAKS

Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes (pictured)
March 6 at 8pm
The Grammy Award-winning 'country boy' musician returns to Sevenoaks for a night of unforgettable music with his fantastic band. Lee has been voted Guitar Player Magazine's Best Country Guitar Picker five times and has worked with greats such as Eric Clapton, Emmylou Harris and Bill Wyman. Tickets cost £17. To book call 01732 450175 or see www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk for details.

THE HOP FARM, PADDOCK WOOD

Wedding Fair
February 28
Plan your big day in style as The Hop Farm invites couples to discover a wide range of top regional suppliers, from photographers and florists to chauffeurs and DJs. Held in the attractive function rooms, the fair offers the chance for visitors to win prizes and see the magical pumpkin carriages. Tickets cost £3/£2 for adults, £2 for children and £5 for couples, see www.thehopfarm.co.uk or call 01622 872068.

EXCHANGE STUDIO, MAIDSTONE

Comedy Club
March 3 at 8pm
Sharp-witted Kevin McCarthy is the headline act at this month's evening of laughter, having appeared on shows such as Chris Tarrant's Prove It, Jo Brand's Through the Cakehole and the Steve Wright Show on BBC Radio 2. Also on the bill are Jason Wood and Andi Osho. The show is for over-18s, tickets cost £10 call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

STAG PLAZA, SEVENOAKS

Fine Arts & Crafts Fair
March 2
Local artists and artisans will display their talents this week as the monthly fairs return.

MIXING IT UP: From the top: Albert Lee, Courtney Pine and Jethro

Following the success of last year's events, the fair will be held on a Tuesday at the beginning of each month. The event runs from 10.30am to 3pm and admission is free for visitors. To inquire about booking a stand call 01892 825157.

SALOMONS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Organ Concert with Dr Carol Williams
February 28 from noon
Hear organ music performed with enthusiasm, humour and a 'rock star' approach when the award-winning Dr Carol Williams visits Salomons. Enjoy a two-course lunch in the Victorian Theatre at 12.15pm, followed by the concert at 3pm. Tickets cost £25/£18.50 for adults, £12.50 for children under 12s and are free for under-fives. To find out more call 01892 507630 or visit www.salomonscentre.org.uk.

IGHTHAM MOTE, SEVENOAKS

Celebration of Spring Flowers
March 4
Muriel Fuller demonstrates great flower arrangements for spring in this beautiful setting. The event, which runs from 11am to 3pm, is not suitable for children. Participants should meet at the Mote Restaurant for coffee at 11am, the demonstration starts at 11.30am and will be followed by a two-course lunch at 1pm. Tickets cost £22.50 and ticket holders can enjoy a 10 per cent discount in the shop if spending more than £15 on the day. Booking is essential so call 01732 810378 to secure your place. For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Thriller is keep you

Review 28.02.10

BY **CLARE GRANT**

This dramati and turns ur

PUBLISHER Howard Mansfield comes home to his sumptuous London flat and discovers his wife Joanna has shot his friend Perry.

Fearing for her sanity, Mansfield tells the police the shooting was his fault.

This gallant act tangles him in a web of blackmail and conspiracy that draws in the couple's friends and associates. The plot twists and turns, keeping the audience speculating until the showdown reveals all.

"It attracts the same audience as Agatha Christie," says Anita Harris, who plays Joanna Mansfield. "Or people who like Midsomer Murders.

" People love murder mysteries on TV, and it's not just something that is wonderful on the telly. There is something about going to live theatre that is good for the soul."

As well as Ms Harris, the cast includes Nicholas Ball, best known for playing Hazell and more recently the EastEnders gangster Terry Bates. Also appearing are Neil Stacy (Duty Free), Michael Howe (from the sit com Solo), Susan Skipper (Don't Wait Up) and Michael Kirk.

"I am very blessed by the cast," says Ms Harris. "We've become quite a family."

The script for Fatal Encounter was written by Francis Durbridge, best known for his plays and novels about Paul Temple, detective and crime writer.

Ms Harris says: "This was his last play and we are not sure if his son finished it off. He is a stalwart of British radio plays and was loved for his work. He translated his radio plays for stage very perceptively and very well."

In tune

Ms Harris is best known for her singing career, which peaked in the 1960s with a number of successes in the UK charts.

Her first major hit was Just Loving You, written by Tom Springfield and given to Ms Harris because of her friendship with Tom's sister Dusty Springfield.

"We were both on Top of the Pops together. She sat and listened to my rehearsal and she called me over and said 'You've got to meet my brother. He's got a song for you.' – That was Just Loving You.

"It was two years in the charts. It was lift-off for my recording career."

Just Loving You is still remembered with affection: "People come up to me and say 'We played it at our wedding' and 'We danced to it.'"

It sold 625,000 copies in the UK. Ms Harris' other top 40 singles include Anniversary Waltz and Dream a Little Dream of Me.

During the 70s, she had a lively TV career, appearing on The Morecombe and Wise Show and co-hosting The David Nixon Magic Show.

"He had the most wonderful brain," she says of Mr Nixon. "His father-in-law was a musical

THRILLING: Francis Durbridge's play is in the vein of Agatha Christie

PROPERTY Review
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Home sweet home

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An eye-catching family home

THIS four-bedroom family home in a sought-after location in Tunbridge Wells is now on the market with Batcheller Thacker.

The £1.35m two-storey detached house at 77 Culverden Road is within walking distance of the bustling town centre.

The area is ideal for commuters, with the main line station of the town providing regular trains to London Charing Cross and Cannon Street stations, and has good state and private schools nearby.

But this property also offers privacy, as it is set back from the road by a driveway leading off an electric gate. It has an extensive parking and turning area.

The family home has recently been refurbished and is described as light and spacious with classical proportions.

It has new bathrooms and a particularly impressive hand-built kitchen. Other features include an attractive entrance hall, a sitting room with windows to three aspects and an open fire.

The dining room includes a fireplace and marble surround, a bay window, and doors opening on to a wide terrace.

It has a newly-fitted cloakroom, with a kitchen/breakfast room with Travertine marble tiled floor, hand-built units of solid wood with adjustable shelving, with a granite-style composite work surface on three sides.

The family-friendly space also has a double stainless steel six-burner range with extractor fan above and mantel, a range of wall and base cupboards, dishwasher, freezer, fridge/freezer, microwave, coffee machine, wine fridge and concealed lighing. The utility room has matching units and bi-folding doors to the conservatory with views over the garden and terrace.

The master bedroom has wardrobe cupboards and an en suite shower room with double shower cubicle, and a bay window overlooking the garden. There are three other bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property has a spacious landing with plenty of space and additional staircase to the impressive loft, which could provide further bedrooms and bathrooms.

The garden to the rear of the property has three tiers across its half an acre of land.

Viewing is strictly by appointment through the owners' sole agents Batcheller Thacker, email enquiries@batchellerthacker.co.uk or call 01892 512020.

TO ADVERTISE TELEPHONE: 01892 616103 **ONLINE:** www.propertyforkent.co.uk ■ WEEK ENDING February 28, 2010 • REVIEW MAGAZINE

Heart of the community

THIS charming cottage presents a rare opportunity to acquire one of the most interesting and historic homes in Mayfield.

It is one of a number of listed buildings in the high street, which sits within a conservation area.

Royal Oak Cottage previously formed part of the Royal Oak Hotel, with parts of the building dating back to the 15th century. It served as an ironmaster's house and as a coaching Inn before becoming the Royal Oak Hotel and pub around the turn of the 20th century.

As the Royal Oak, it served as a central part of village life as well as being the Conservative Party headquarters at times of local and general elections.

By 1990 the hotel/pub had been comprehensively but sympathetically renovated to form four modern dwellings with many period features preserved.

The Royal Oak is well documented in local history books and pamphlets produced by the Mayfield Local History Society and others.

Photographs displayed in Royal Oak Cottage by the present owners date as far back as the mid-19th century as testified by the total absence in one of the photographs of cars in the high street.

Its features include a wealth of well-preserved beams around the walls and along the ceilings. There is an Elizabethan wall, which includes repairs with stones that pre-date the wall itself by hundreds of years (apparently these stones were regularly pilfered by local builders from the old Archbishop's Palace when this lay in ruins).

The entrance porch retains the etched windows displaying the Royal Oak name and tree sign. The 'pub sign' also hangs out over the high street, but now announces the Royal Oak Mews development behind the house.

Two car parking spaces are available in Royal Oak Mews.

Finally, there are stunning views up and down the high street from bay windows on two different levels.

The home has an extremely high standard of interior design and décor and is within close proximity to all of the village shops and to the excellent Middle House restaurant and pub.

To view call Burnett's on 01435 874450 or email mayfield@burnetts-ea.com.

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Mark Cross

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Rotherfield

An impressive re-furbished detached character house set in outstanding gardens and grounds of about 5 1/2 acres, in a rural location on the edge of the village.

£1,100,000

Tunbridge Wells

A beautifully restored and updated character 4 bedroom country house, incorporating many outstanding features and set within gardens of about 1 Acre.

OIRO £1,095,000

Mayfield

An enchanting exceptionally well restored and upgraded detached twin roundel oast house in peaceful rural setting about 1.25 miles from this picturesque village.

OIRO £795,000

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Matfield

Guide £1,850,000

Beautifully converted oast and barn in an accessible rural location

With a contemporary interior, this oast and barn offers light and spacious accommodation as well as substantial outbuildings. Triple aspect drawing room, roundel sitting room, dining room, kitchen / breakfast / family room. Master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, 1 roundel bedroom, 3 further bedrooms (1 with en-suite), family bathroom. Delightful gardens and paddocks. In all about 48 acres.

APH/289329

Tunbridge Wells

Guide £650,000

An elegant Grade II* listed Decimus Burton built town house

Situated in one of the most sought after parks, the property has flexible accommodation arranged over four floors and retains many of its period features. Drawing room, dining room, kitchen, storage/wine cellar, study/bedroom 4. Master bedroom with en-suite, 2 further bedrooms (1 en-suite), balcony. Communal garden, private parking.

SPB/281176

Brenchley

Guide £765,000

Immaculately presented, high specification family house close to Brenchley

The property was built in 2002, very much in the local architectural style and offers outstanding family accommodation. Drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study. Master bedroom with en-suite, 3 further bedrooms (1 en-suite), family bathroom. Integral garage, attractively landscaped front and rear gardens.

SPB/289239

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You can live the dream

THIS impressive detached house could be a dream for a family.

Holmewood Road in Langton Green has just over half an acre of mature gardens with striking well-presented accommodation, predominantly arranged over two floors.

It is accessed through automatic wrought iron gates on to a carriage driveway.

The house, which has a guide price of £2 million, was completed last year and is double-glazed throughout, with an under-floor heating system too.

The entrance porch opens into a double height hallway with doors opening into the drawing room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room and study.

The oak staircase rises up to the impressive galleried landing with doors to all bedrooms and a further staircase to the second floor.

The reception space is well designed for both family living and entertaining alike.

The sitting room has double doors opening directly on to the terrace along with a door into the well-fitted kitchen/breakfast room.

The study, at the opposite end of the house, is well-proportioned with a bay window to the front, and the drawing room, with fireplace, is on the south side, overlooking the garden.

On the first floor, the master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe and further fitted cupboards, a Juliet balcony and an en-suite bathroom with roll top bath and walk-in shower.

The remaining five bedrooms on this level all have built-in wardrobes and are very well served by three en-suite shower rooms and a family bathroom.

Four of the bedrooms, to the rear of the house, have direct access on to two balconies.

The two second-floor bedrooms with Velux windows, both to the front and rear, are of such a size that they could easily become cinema or games rooms.

To view call Hamptons on 01892 516611.

Fall for an oast house

A SUBSTANTIAL oast and barn that has been beautifully converted in a contemporary style is now on the market for a guide price of £1.85 million.

Badsell Park Farm Oast offers light and spacious accommodation in an accessible rural location just a mile from the picturesque village of Matfield, which has shops, pubs, a post office and butcher. Tunbridge Wells is just six miles away.

The property is approached by a long drive off Crittenden Road, which leads to a small hamlet formed by the oast, a farmhouse and two pairs of cottages set in an attractive valley.

The property is set on a 47-acre site and has five bedrooms, a gymnasium, a large outbuilding containing a workshop, a barn and stables.

On the ground floor there are limestone floors running through the hall, dining room and kitchen areas.

The remaining floors in the drawing room and sitting room have been laid in oak, and this has been repeated on the staircase and throughout the first floor landing and bedrooms. Internal doors are of oak, there is under-floor heating to the ground floor, and to the first floor via radiators.

Other features include double doors leading to a large reception hall with open-plan staircase to first floor with oak treads and limestone flooring.

There is a Schofield and Crafter oak kitchen, with granite work surfaces, stainless steel double sink with mixer tap, a range of cupboards and drawers below, and integrated dishwasher, and an integrated fridge/freezer, and two Aga ovens.

On the first floor there is a master bedroom suite comprising of a room with a high-vaulted beamed ceiling, fitted oak wardrobes and an ensuite bathroom with restored French-style bath tub, nickel-plated bath filter, toilet, pedestal hand basin and a shower cubicle.

There is also a guest suite with a pair of broad doors leading to a landing and bedroom with walk-in linen cupboard, ensuite shower room with walk-in shower cubicle, toilet and hand basin.

Nearby is a substantial semi-detached two storey outbuilding, built of brick and weatherboard elevations under a pitched roof.

This barn has recently been converted to match the decor of the oast and is currently divided into a downstairs sitting/games room, with a separate store room, hall, laundry and upstairs a study and galleried gym with wooden floors throughout.

As well as a parking and turning area, there is an attractive barn, sub-divided and mainly used to store machinery and as a dog run. The drive also gives access to another large building, currently divided into stables and store rooms and on to a large sand school.

The lawned gardens are interspersed with young trees, shrubs and flower borders, a greenhouse, raised vegetable beds and fruit trees. An attractive terraced area overlooks a small valley and over to the various paddocks.

The land is mostly laid to wheat and grass, with some areas of woodland, and a stream. Approximately 30 acres are currently leased out on a farm business tenancy.

Viewing is strictly by prior appointment, email tunwells@knightfrank.com or call 01892 515035 for details.

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BATCHELLER THACKER

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Penshurst – REGION £2.5/2.75 MILLION

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HIGH HURSTWOOD - REGION £750/775,000
Attractive attached country house
2 Reception Rooms. Kitchen/Breakfast Room. 5 Bedrooms. 2 Bathrooms. Garage. 0.5 of an Acre.
APPLY TUNBRIDGE WELLS

WALLCROUCH – REGION £750/775,000
Beautifully presented barn conversion
3 Reception Rooms. Kitchen/Breakfast Room. Master Bedroom with En Suite Shower Room. 4 Further Bedrooms. Annexe/Bedroom 6.
APPLY TUNBRIDGE WELLS

BELLS YEW GREEN - REGION £550/£575,000
Semi-detached Victorian home in outstanding rural location
Sitting Room. Kitchen/Breakfast Room. 3 Bedrooms. Bathroom. Double Garage. About 0.225 of an Acre.
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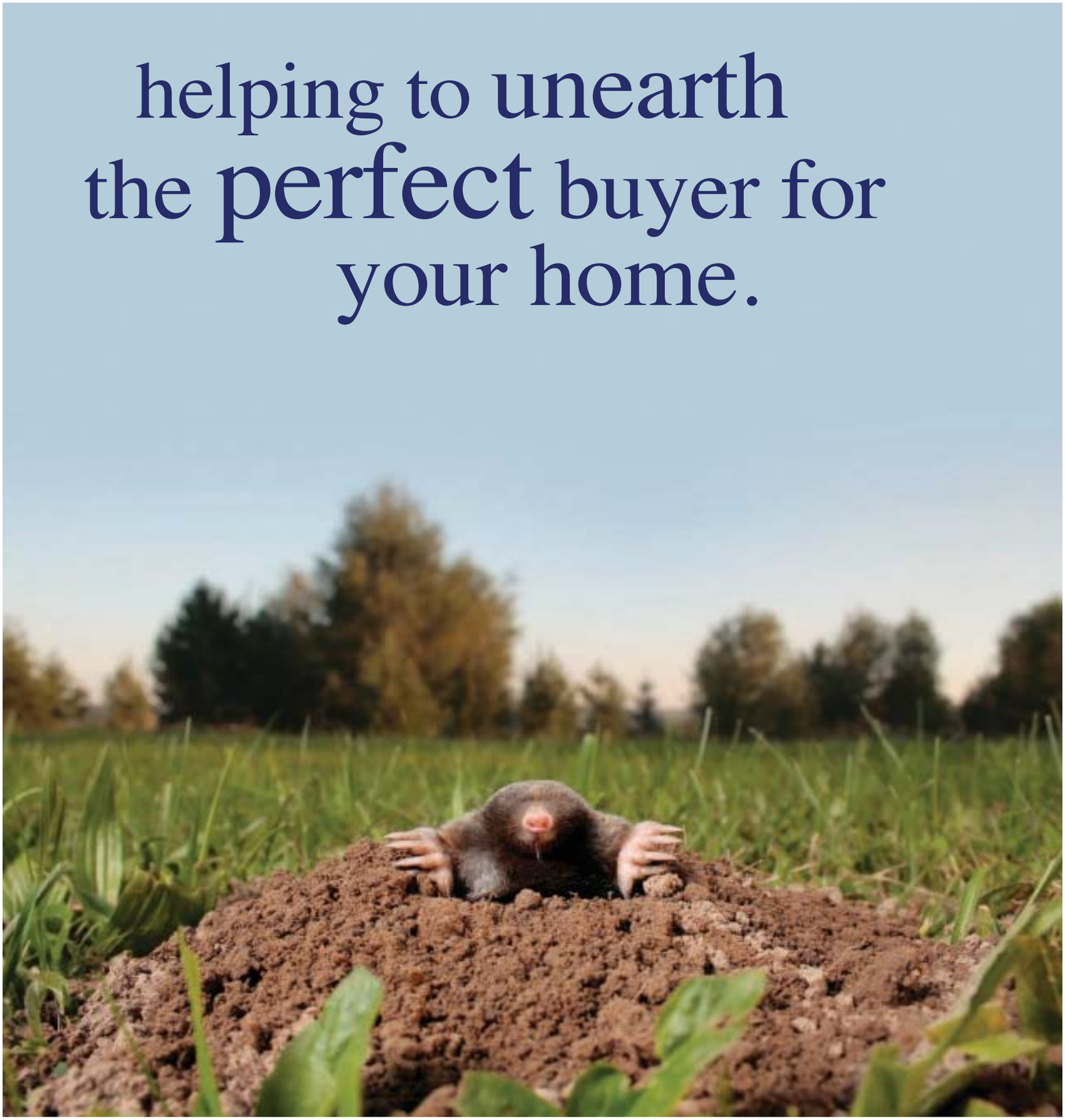

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GOUDHURST VILLAGE
£249,950 LEASEHOLD

This delightful, attached single storey Cottage, believed to be a converted Coach House, is conveniently situated in the heart of the much sought after Goudhurst Village. The beautifully presented accommodation comprises: Light and Airy Sitting Room with Exposed Beam Vaulted Ceiling and Wood burning Stove, Kitchen/Breakfast Room and Two Bedrooms. Private Courtyard Garden. The Village offers a General Store, Hairdressers, Country Inns, Restaurant, Post Office, Chemist, Off Licence, Pharmacy, Antique Shop, Fashion Shop, Village Hall, Farm Shop, Butchers, Bakery and a Local Primary School.

GOUDHURST VILLAGE
£250,000 FREEHOLD

This pretty mid-terrace period Cottage is situated on a quaint, quiet unadopted road, within walking distance of the picturesque High Street of Goudhurst. Deceptively spacious inside, this delightful Cottage offers: Kitchen, Utility Area, Dining Room, Sitting Room with an Open Fireplace, Three Bedrooms over two floors and a Bathroom. There is a pretty, fair size Garden to the rear of the Cottage with paved Terraces and Paths interspersed with flower beds planted with a variety of mature Shrubs. A Garage at the far end of the Garden provides Off Road Parking and additional storage space.

WOODS GREEN
£275,000 FREEHOLD

This delightful mid Terrace Cottage is situated in the peaceful Hamlet of Woods Green. With far reaching Views over the nearby Countryside, this well presented Cottage offers: a Sitting Room with a Brick Fireplace and Wood burning Stove, Kitchen/Breakfast Room with Bespoke Fitted Kitchen Units, 2 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Rear Garden. The nearby Hamlet of Sparrows Green offers good local shopping and an excellent Primary School. Nearby Wadhurst Village offers a traditional Butcher, Baker, Ironmonger, Hairdresser, Bank, Post Office, Gift Shop, several Country Inns.

HORSMONDEN VILLAGE
£675,000 FREEHOLD

A red brick and tile Facade belies the deceptively spacious accommodation within this delightful Detached Cottage. Set in wrap around Gardens with Stone Paved Terrace and Lawns together with Gravel Drive and Off Road Parking, the original Cottage dates back, we believe, to circa. 1900 and has been sympathetically extended in the intervening years. The flexible family accommodation comprises: a contemporary Kitchen with Breakfast Island, Utility Room, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Drawing Room, Study and Cloakroom , Four Double Bedrooms, a Shower Room and a Bathroom.

LAMBERHURST VILLAGE
£695,000 FREEHOLD

With an abundance of Vaulted Ceilings and Exposed Beams, this Country Home has its roots set firmly in circa C15th. The light and airy accommodation comprises: Reception Hall, Large Drawing Room/ Dining Room with Fireplace, Study, Kitchen and Cloakroom/ Utility Room, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, 3 Further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens of just under 1/2 Acre and to the rear a beautiful Pond and a South facing Terrace. Nearby Lamberhurst Village provides a fine selection of Country Inns, Restaurants, Shops and fine Walks and Nature Trails. Lamberhurst Golf Club and Bewl Water Reservoir offer varied activities for the sporting enthusiast.

RURAL STAPLECROSS
OIEO £799,000 FREEHOLD

A rurally located Detached Country Property in a quiet location enjoying stunning far-reaching views and surrounded by its own lovely pastureland of some 15.59 Acres. The property features an excellent selection of Outbuildings and Equine facilities including a Manege, Stabling, Hay Barn, 2 further Barns and an old Milking Parlour. The accommodation currently comprises: Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Drawing Room, Sitting Area, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Ground Floor Bedroom/ Family Room, Shower Room, 4 Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.

STONE-CUM-EBONY
OIEO £895,000 FREEHOLD

An impressive Grade II Listed Country House believed to date back to the 17th Century with Georgian additions. The House is situated in the Hamlet of Stone-cum-Ebony and comprises: Hall, Drawing Room, Sitting Room, Study, Dining Room, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room, Utility and Cloakroom, 5 Bedrooms with 2 En-Suites and a Family Bathroom. Full Planning Permission has been granted for a further Reception Room, a Conservatory and an En-Suite Bedroom. The House sits within approx. 0.88 Acres of manicured Gardens, Ponds, a Knott Garden, a Rose walkway and a Triple Garage with Gymnasium.

RURAL BETHERSDEN
£945,000 FREEHOLD

A beautiful Barn conversion proudly displaying outstanding craftsmanship and attention to detail in every aspect of its flawless design. Approx. 1 Acre of Gardens backing onto neighbouring fields in a truly rural location down a quiet country lane. Comprising: 5 Double Bedrooms, 3 En-Suites, a wonderful Mezzanine Sitting Room, Study, Entrance Hall, Reception Hall with Grand Atrium, Cloakroom, an impressive vaulted Kitchen/Dining/Family Room, Family Bathroom and Utility Room. Superb Annexe potential. Double Car Port with Single Garage/Workshop and Store.

RURAL COLDBLOW
£945,000 FREEHOLD

In the heart of the Kent Countryside, this Detached Converted Barn has the Ultimate Rural setting matched perfectly with Character and Period Features. The accommodation comprises: Grand Entrance into the Dining Area, Kitchen/ Breakfast with AGA, Walk-in-Larder, Sitting Room with Log Burner, Study, Cloakroom, Master Bedroom with En- Suite, Guest with En-Suite & 2 further Bedrooms with a Family Bathroom. Couple this with approx. 4.5 Acres and Stabling with a Separate Entrance & its own Amenities, including a Hay Barn & Tack Area. Detached Garage.

BROAD OAK BREDE
OIEO £1,250,000 FREEHOLD

This exquisite Detached period property is located at the end of a private driveway and benefits from exceptional views over its own Gardens and Grounds of approximately 14.6 Acres. Comprising: Side Entrance/Utility Room, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room with AGA, Sitting Room with Inglenook, Study, Drawing Room with Inglenook, Dining Room, Family Room, Cloakroom, 6 Double Bedrooms (2 En-Suite), a Family Bathroom and Laundry Room. The Grounds are divided into Paddocks and Gardens with a Hot Tub, Stable Block & 3-Bay Garage complex with Room above & Shower Room.

RURAL MATFIELD
£1,350,000 FREEHOLD

This idyllic rural retreat is located in an extremely peaceful location off a quiet country lane, within easy driving distance of the A21. Comprising: Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Principal Bedroom with En-Suite Bathroom and 2 further Rooms (currently used as Offices). 4 further Bedrooms, a Family Bathroom and Attic Storage Room. The beautifully landscaped Gardens include a Kitchen Garden with a Greenhouse. There is ample Parking and a Detached Double Garage. 2 Paddocks make the total Grounds some 2.59 Acres.

RURAL ROLVENDEN LAYNE
£1,750,000 FREEHOLD

Splendour exudes throughout this exquisitely appointed Grade ll Listed Country House. Standing proudly in a class of its own, cleverly making an indulgent use of the 4,918sq.ft., spanning Three Floors to provide an Entrance Hall, a fine Drawing Room, a Sitting Room with an impressive Inglenook, Dining Room, Library, Study, a bespoke Kitchen/Breakfast Room with an AGA, capacious Cellarage, Garden Room, Cloakroom, Principal Bedroom Suite with Dressing Room & En-Suite Bathroom, Guest Bedroom with En-Suite, 4 further Bedrooms with a Family Bathroom. 2.5 Acres of Garden/Grounds. Garaging.

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MAYFIELD £250,000

A Victorian end terraced cottage, well presented, with kitchen/breakfast room with Oak fronted units and granite work surfaces, living room with Period fireplace, rear lobby/utility, recently fitted bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite shower room and nursery/dressing room/office adjacent, second double bedroom, box room, attractive gardens and garage, partial double glazing and gas central heating. There is also much scope for an attic conversion, subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents.

CENTRAL MAYFIELD £350,000

A Victorian semi-detached house in the centre of the village, offering three bedrooms, bath/shower room, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, useful attic storage/hobbies room, long South facing rear garden arranged as a series of outdoor 'rooms' with seating areas and vegetable patch, enjoying partial views across the Rother Valley to the rear, whilst being just yards from the High Street. Available with no onward chain.

CENTRAL ROTHERFIELD £355,000

Situated in a very popular and quiet residential location within easy reach of Rotherfield High Street and local primary school, this property is in good order throughout and comprises kitchen, good sized living room with open fireplace, converted garage to form a dining room and utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, en suite bathroom to the master bedroom and family bathroom, double glazing and West facing garden with patio and BBQ area.

MAYFIELD VILLAGE £399,950

A charming attached Period property, with classical French influenced internal decor, and accommodation arranged over 3 floors, to comprise a useful cellar area, suitable for games room/offices/cinema room/gym or even an occasional bedroom four, two large reception rooms, office/bedroom three, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and wet room, two double bedrooms and bathroom. Outside, there is ample off road parking, brick outhouse and area of lawn. No Chain.

FIVE ASHES £585,000

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...this superb detached family house originating from the 1920s, enjoys typically well proportioned accommodation, to include a stunning kitchen/breakfast room finished in Walnut and granite, with LED lights to complete the effect, living room, dining room and study/snug, three double bedrooms and a twin room to form the fourth bedroom, (the vaulted master bedroom enjoying a sumptuous en-suite bath and shower room), a second en-suite for the guest bedroom and a family bathroom, all with the quality that one would expect from the moment you walk in the front door. All the electrics, plumbing, heating, double glazed windows and insulation have been replaced to form an easy to run family house. Outside, the garden has also been significantly landscaped to form a large, level terrace and level area of lawn, and a private court yards area, ample off road parking together with 'Sussex Style' Oak framed garage bays. It really must be seen to appreciate the quality of accommodation on offer. No Chain.

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1 Bed Flat - Unfurnished

PADDOCK WOOD - £650PCM

2 Bed Flat - Unfurnished

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2 Bed House - Unfurnished

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Fordcombe, Tunbridge Wells — **GUIDE PRICE: £1,100,000**

A substantial wing of an Edwardian property with superb accommodation situated in a highly desirable location in the village of Fordcombe, in need of some upgrading and modernisation. The spacious accommodation is arranged over four floors and the property has generous gardens with the plot extending to approximately 0.9 acres. Entrance hall, drawing room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom. Cellar rooms. First floor with two bedrooms, reception room and bathroom. Top floor with four bedrooms, bathroom. Double car port, extensive drive and large gardens. Large shed/workshop (in need of repair). Apply Tunbridge Wells.

Southborough — **£499,950**

A beautifully presented detached 1930s family home situated in a desirable residential cul-de-sac. Covered entrance porch, entrance hall, living room, dining room, family room/study, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, family bathroom. Driveway with parking, front and rear gardens. Apply Southborough.

Tunbridge Wells — **£425,000**

An exceptionally well presented, extended semi-detached house situated in the popular St James' area. Entrance porch, entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast/family room, utility room, shower room, four bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking, store room and large rear garden. Apply Tunbridge Wells.

Tunbridge Wells — **£399,950**

A well presented detached family house situated in the St James' area and within walking distance of the town centre. Entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, conservatory/utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, bathroom. Parking for two cars, two single garages, front and rear gardens. Apply Tunbridge Wells.

Tunbridge Wells — **£360,000**

A semi-detached 1930s family house situated in the St Johns area within walking distance of station and close to many of the well regarded schools. Entrance hall, cloakroom, living/dining room, kitchen, conservatory. Four bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, driveway with parking, good sized gardens. Apply Tunbridge Wells.

Tunbridge Wells — **£359,950**

A spacious and immaculately presented apartment occupying the whole of the first floor of this delightful period property. Entrance hall/study, cloakroom, living room, balcony, kitchen/dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom. Detached single garage with parking, extensive rear garden with decked area. Apply Tunbridge Wells.

Southborough — **£325,000**

An exceptionally well presented and skillfully extended semi detached period house, situated in a sought after residental area. Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs Cloakroom, Utility Room. Three Bedrooms, two with en-suites, Family Bathroom. Front and Rear Gardens. Apply Southborough.

Tunbridge Wells — **£279,950**

A beautifully presented ground floor flat situated in the centre of Tunbridge Wells within a few hundred yards of the station. Communal and private entrance halls, open plan living/dining room, kitchen, two double bedrooms, one with en suite, bathroom. Secure underground parking space. Share of the Freehold. Apply Tunbridge Wells,

Toad Rock, Rusthall — **£216,950**

A charming and well presented town house, located in the popular Toad Rock area of Rusthall, presented in good order throughout. Dining room, laundry area, bathroom, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms. Gas central heating, replacement double glazing. Off road parking, rear garden. Chain free. Apply Tunbridge Wells.

Tunbridge Wells — **£155,000**

A modern mid terrace home requiring some modernisation and updating situated in a cul de sac location approximately 500 yards from High Brooms mainline station. Entrance hall, living room, kitchen/dining room, two bedrooms, shower room. Gas central heating, double glazing. Front and rear gardens. Apply Tunbridge Wells.

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Langton Green **£1,350,000**

A highly individual and spacious 6 bedroom split level detached house of approximately 5,500 sq.ft, situated in an elevated semi-rural location on the outskirts of the village.

Tunbridge Wells **£1,195,000**

An impressive and superbly appointed brand new 6 bedroom semi-detached town house of approximately 3,945 sq.ft, situated in a much sought after location within half a mile of the town centre and station. NO CHAIN.

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Etchingham **£599,950**

A substantial 5 bedroom detached modern family house, situated in a much sought after location within easy walking distance of the village and mainline station.

Mark Cross **£550,000 - £575,000**

A well presented and deceptively spacious 3/4 bedroom attached family house, situated in a tucked away and convenient location on a private lane within easy reach of local amenities and commuter services. NO CHAIN.

Pembury **£499,950**

A highly individual 4 bedroom Victorian coach house, offering excellent scope for further improvement, situated in a convenient location overlooking the green. NO CHAIN.

Robertsbridge **£425,000 - £450,000**

An attractive and beautifully presented 4 bedroom1930's attached house, situated within half a mile of the mainline station in a quiet, semi-rural location with far reaching views.

Tunbridge Wells **£349,950**

An impressive and spacious 3 bedroom top floor apartment of approximately 1,700 sq. ft with views, private and communal gardens and a garage, situated on Broadwater Down.

Tunbridge Wells **£345,000**

A spacious 3 bedroom ground floor apartment enjoying a delightful outlook over communal gardens and grounds, situated close to the town centre and station. NO CHAIN.

Tunbridge Wells **£210,000**

A much improved and well presented 2 bedroom Victorian semi-detached house, situated in a convenient residential location within easy walking distance of High Brooms station. NO CHAIN.

Tunbridge Wells **£210,000**

A well designed and appointed 2 bedroom purpose built first floor apartment of approximately 829sq.ft, situated in a central location opposite the Royal Victoria Shopping Centre.

Tunbridge Wells **£179,950**

A well presented modern 1 bedroom purpose-built first floor apartment, situated in a convenient location within close proximity of the town centre and station.

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The well presented accommodation comprises 3 beds, 2 receps, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom/wc, shower room, well stocked garden and covered parking facility.
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A truly stunning extended Victorian three storey end of terrace house with views to the rear, backing directly onto the recreation ground.
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS — Price: £199,950
A well presented 2 bedroom apartment situated in High Street and close to the main line station. Secure allocated parking, gas central heating.
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS — Guide Price: £450,000
A well presented 4 bedroom, 2 reception room town house situated in a popular development with access to 4 acres of communal grounds.
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GROOMBRIDGE — Guide Price: £310,000
A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached house situated in a sought after cul-de-sac in the heart of this popular semi rural village.
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Residential Lettings

UPPER GROSVENOR ROAD, T. WELLS — £950 PCM
A newly refurbished first floor two double bedroomed apartment with en suite to master bedroom, off road parking, situated close to the town centre and mainline station. Offered part furnished and available now.

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CALVERLEY STREET, T. WELLS — £950 PCM
A spacious and well appointed two double bedroomed apartment situated in the heart of the town centre and within easy walking distance of the mainline station. Open plan lounge/kitchen, en suite master bedroom. Available now.

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HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD — £695 PCM
A quirky two double bedroomed flat situated in the heart of this extremely popular and picturesque village. The property has a large lounge with working fireplace.

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PADDOCK WOOD **£485,000**

5 Bedrooms, 3 Receptions
En-Suite To Master Bedroom

Contemporary Extension
Garage, Viewing A Must!

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Idyllic Location, Quiet Country Lane
3 Bedrooms, Bespoke Conservatory

Open Fireplace, Country Kitchen
No Chain

WHETSTED **£227,500**

Well Presented, 3 Bedrooms
Extended To Rear

Cloakroom, Utility Room
Overlooking Orchards, Off Road Parking

PADDOCK WOOD **£285,000**

3 Bedrooms, Link Detached
Seculded Landscaped Garden

Shaker Style Kitchen, Modern Bathroom
Double Glazing

MATFIELD **£375,000**

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Plus Attic Room, 2 Receptions

Oak Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom
Garden Backing Onto Orchards

PADDOCK WOOD **£250,000**

Detached Bungalow, 2 Double Bedrooms
Kitchen In Need Of Refurbishment

Shower Room, Double Glazing
Large Decking Area, Detached Garage

PADDOCK WOOD **£310,000**

Victorian Semi, No Chain
3/4 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom

Off Road Parking, Gardens
Walking Distance Mls

PADDOCK WOOD **£347,500**

3 Bedrooms, En-Suite To Master
2 Receptions

Large Conservatory, Cloakroom
Single Garage

TUNBRIDGE WELLS **£332,950**

Detached Bungalow, 2/3 Bedrooms
Large Kitchen, Sitting Room

Conservatory, Double Garage
Walking Distance To Town Centre

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IGHTHAM **£459,950**
A charming detached character cottage in a secluded plot delightfully situated on the village outskirts. 3 bedrooms. 2 reception rooms. Scope for further improvement/extension, Subject to Planning Consent.
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Extensive Grade II Listed village property: Shop approx 1039 sq ft.
First Floor 2 bedroom Flat.
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A delightful 2 bedroom Cottage in a prime location in the heart of the village within walking distance of the local shops and railway station. Greatly improved by the present owner and presented to a high specification.
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KINGS HILL **£575,000**
Five bedroom house arranged over three floors making this, in our opinion, a substantial and spacious family home maintained to a high standard by the present owners. NO CHAIN
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PLAXTOL **£310,000**
At the end of a cul de sac adjoining beautiful countryside on the village outskirts. Master Bedroom en suite; 2 further bedrooms. Sitting/Dining room. Kitchen with integrated appliances. NO CHAIN.
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FARNINGHAM **£235,000**
A charming 1650 character cottage, sympathetically improved while retaining many original fine features, ideally located in the heart of the village. Master Bedroom with vaulted ceiling and exposed timbers..
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- Gas Central Heating And D. Glazing
- Modern Separate Upstairs Bathroom

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Tonbridge | Price Range: £170,000 - £190,000
- Two Bed Semi-Detached House
- Gas Central Heating and D. Glazing
- Situated Within Woodland School Catchment

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Tonbridge | Price Range: £170,000 - £190,000
- Three Bed Semi-Detached House
- Gas Central Heating And D. Glazing
- Driveway For One Car At Rear

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Tunbridge Wells | Price: £160,000
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Tonbridge | Price Range: £140,000 - £150,000
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Tunbridge Wells | Price: £139,995
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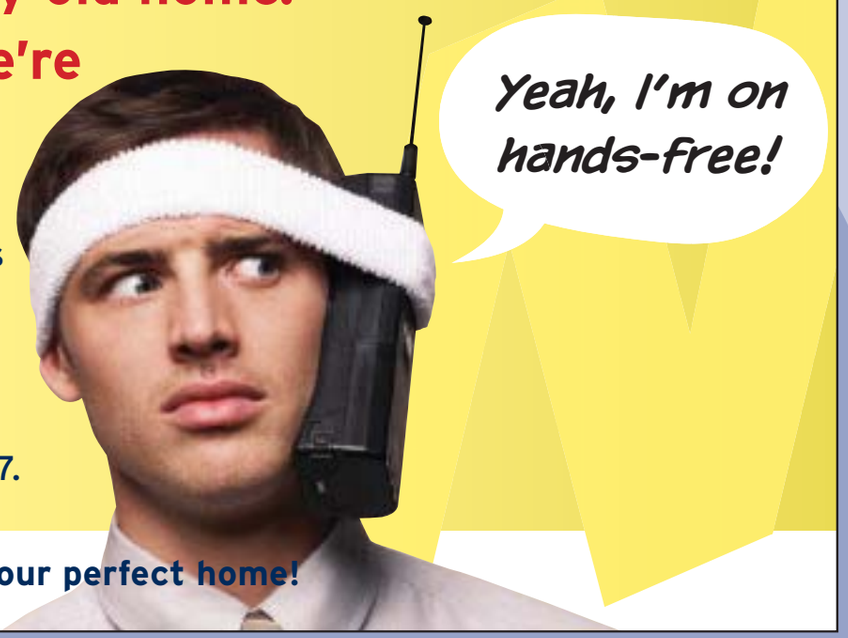

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Tonbridge | Price: £175,000
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- Gas Central Heating, No Onward Chain

TONBRIDGE OFFICE | 01732 770755

Tunbridge Wells | Price: £140,000
- 2 double bed town centre top floor apartment
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For your ideal home, contact your local branch:
Tunbridge Wells: 01892 542767 **Wadhurst: 01892 783555**

First chance to see

A NEW development is being launched by Taylor Wimpey.

The community is at Birling Grange and will be exclusively launched this weekend.

It is off London Road, West Malling, and buyers can take a look around the new Finsbury show home.

Visitors will also have the chance to see artists' impressions of the architectural designs and floor plans of interior layouts of all the development's selection of one and two-bedroom apartments and two, three and four-bedroom houses.

These properties can be reserved on the day.

Marie-Claire Travis, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey South East, said: "The showhome has been expertly kitted out with the latest decor, furnishings, fittings and accessories, and promises to provide an inspirational glimpse into what a new home at Birling Grange could look like.

"We've already received considerable interest in this exciting development and I urge would-be buyers to come along to the launch if they want to stand the best chance of securing the home of their dreams."

The first homes going on sale at Birling Grange include stylish two-bedroom coach houses and apartments, priced from £184,995, three-bedroom houses from £244,995 and four-bedroom houses from £354,995.

The company said those in search of the ultimate in generous space and elegant styling can opt for the exceptional four-bedroom Finsbury house type, available from £399,995 with accommodation across three floors for comfortable family living.

Purchasers can choose from the company's range of interior options, including carpets, flooring, tiles, lighting and kitchen worktops, units and appliances – all of which will be fitted before the move.

Their first-time buyers' initiative lets qualifying purchasers secure selected properties with a mortgage of 50 per cent of the purchase price, and assistance with finding a purchaser for an existing property for those with a home to sell. They are only available on some plots and subject to availability, so you need to ask.

Birling Grange is being developed on the former Leybourne Grange manor house and hospital and will comprise a combination of houses and apartments, community and leisure facilities, all surrounded by some 160 acres of public open space, they said.

In time, the development will also get local amenities, including a community centre, convenience store, school and health centre.

The sales centre is open between 10.30am-5.30pm, seven days a week.

For more information call 0845 026 3791.

Taylor Wimpey

BIRLING GRANGE AT LEYBOURNE

Birling Grange, London Road, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5HZ

The excitement is building for our Showhome opening!

Launching Saturday 27th February

You're invited to the launch of our beautiful new Showhome at Birling Grange – a 4 bedroom detached Finsbury. The perfect introduction to life in this exciting new sustainable community in West Malling, which includes shops, doctors surgery, Community Hall, allotments and much more!

This new village is designed to be eco-friendly and residents will have control of all new initiatives and amenities.

Located on the outskirts of Leybourne, Birling Grange is ideal for commuters, just 5 miles from bustling Maidstone and surrounded by beautiful Kent countryside.

Come and be part of this great new lifestyle.

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For more details call **0845 026 3792**

taylorwimpey.co.uk/birlinggrange

All the space you could wish for without the stress of a mortgage

THIS four-bedroom detached bungalow is close to Tunbridge Wells town centre and could be just the property you're looking for if you want to rent rather than buy.

The property is close to the popular Dunorlan Park, at Trinity Close, and is on the market for rental of £1,500 per month.

Described by agents as a spacious property, it comes with four bedrooms, three reception rooms and two bathrooms. It features gas central heating, a gas hob, oven and alarm.

Outside, it has a garage and drive, a garden with patio and off-street parking.

The property is located within ten minutes drive of central Tunbridge Wells and the A21. Facilities within easy reach are the Tesco superstore, Dunorlan Park and Pembury Hospital.

Agents Hamptons describe the interior as "neutrally decorated throughout" and state that the property is available immediately.

For further details or to arrange a viewing call 01892 516611.

www.connells.co.uk
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Tunbridge Wells Branch

UK LARGE AGENCY ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2009 THE SUNDAY TIMES

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS £179,950

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TONBRIDGE £225,000

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- Two Receptions
- Garage
- Conservatory

TUNBRIDGE WELLS £139,995

- Gated Parking
- One Double Bedroom
- Entrance Level Apartment
- Kitchen & Bathroom

TUNBRIDGE WELLS £220,000

- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Detached
- Convenient Location
- No Chain

TUNBRIDGE WELLS £245,000

- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Set Over Three Floors
- Town Centre Location
- Rear Garden

TUNBRIDGE WELLS £379,950

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Popular St Johns Area
- No Chain

PEMBURY £149,950

- Two Bedrooms
- Period Cottage
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- No Chain

TUNBRIDGE WELLS £219,950

- 3 Bed Extended Property
- Off Road Parking
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Due to high levels of recently sold properties, Connells Tunbridge Wells now urgently require properties in Tunbridge Wells and surrounding areas to keep up with applicant demand. If you are thinking of selling or are currently on the market but believe that your home should have sold by now then please call 01892 547966 to arrange a free market appraisal of your home.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS £349,950

- Three Double Bedrooms
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- Garage To Rear
- Convenient Location

TUNBRIDGE WELLS £340,000

- Two Bedrooms
- Beautifully Presented
- Private Garden
- Garage & Parking

TUNBRIDGE WELLS £360,000

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- Two Bathrooms
- Rear Garden
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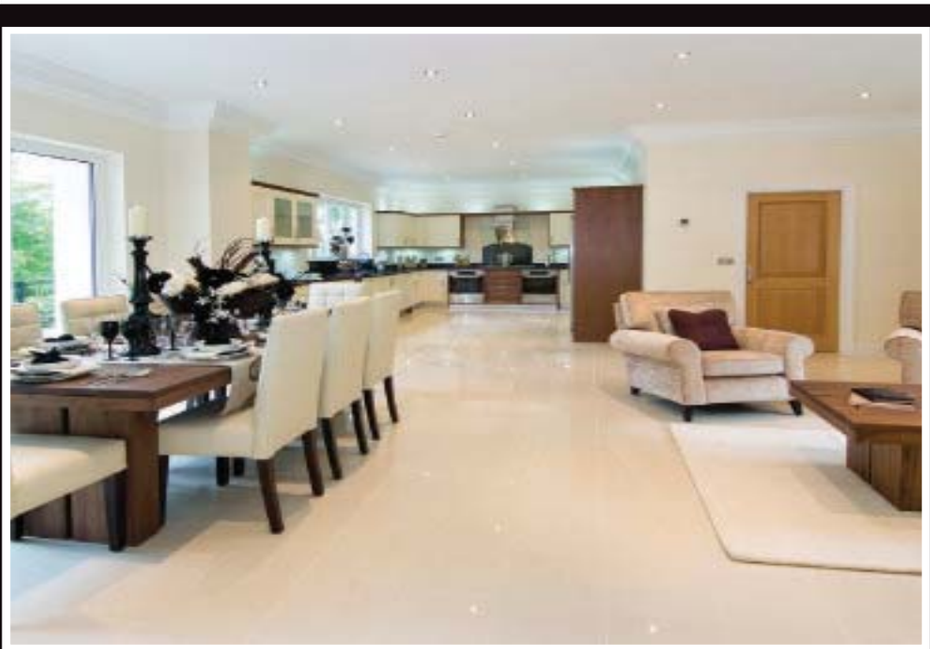

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s sure to guessing

c Fatal Encounter twists ntil the final showdown

orchestrater, and they invented the mellotron, the first electronic keyboard. He had a beautiful way about him.

"I sung every week, and I was his magic assistant."

Later, she worked with Tommy Cooper, Basil Brush, French and Saunders and Bob Monkhouse. She also did eight months at the Palladium with Harry Secombe.

"I seem to have been teamed up with comics. I don't know why, but I love them. It must be chemistry."

Ms Harris has taken great pleasure in her involvement with the Armed Forces. "It's the most wonderful thing, going up from Brize Norton and landing in the middle of the desert to where our lovely boys in the army were building a stage for us to perform on."

Another highlight of her career was a performance with Harry Secombe for the Queen Mother. "You could see the joy on her face. She loved Harry. She came back stage to see us all. She was lit up from the inside."

Purr-fect

One of Ms Harris' best-loved stage roles was Grizabella, the broken down diva in Cats. "Trevor Nunn said to me: 'Find your own Grizabella.'

"I had learned from another director, Pauline Grant – she made me find my own Peter Pan from the feet up, saying: 'Your feet have to take off. You have to make those children believe you're flying.

"If you totally believe you are Peter Pan, you will make the audience believe.

"Trevor said: 'Tell me who Grizabella is. How many of her nine lives has she used up?'"

Inspired by her own mother's hip problems, Ms Harris imagined a Grizabella who had been run over in the small hours.

"That helped me find her when she's singing Memory." She sung a snatch down the phone: "I'm almost crying now," she says recalling the emotions demanded by the part.

Back in the present, as well as touring Fatal Encounter, Ms Harris has been helping raise money for victims of the Haitian earthquake.

"It was at a small venue in Thames Ditton – a pub-trattoria with a very good space. Bobby Davro did an auction and raised £6,500 which goes straight to Haiti.

"We all appreciate the global effort, but we felt that community support is very important, too."

• Challenge your wits by trying to work out the whys and wherefores of Fatal Encounter at The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. It runs from Monday to Wednesday, March 8-10 at 7pm. Tickets are £21.50, £18.50 or £16. Call 01892 530613 or 01892 532072 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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It's all aboard for a cruise

AFTER stopping via ports in France, Italy, Greece and Turkey, catching glimpses of must-see cities such as Rome, Nice and Naples, and seeing the Pope in St Peter's Square, we often wondered what might happen next on our Mediterranean cruise.

Sailing from Barcelona to the Greek islands on the Brilliance of The Seas, we passengers were in for more surprises and sights.

Though the sun occasionally gave way to high winds in the Aegean, with cloud and a little rain, two weeks at sea took us to our farthest landing at Kusadasi in Turkey, gateway to Ephesus – once the second largest city of the Roman Empire and now rising again as one of the world's great city ruins.

Naples, of course, was the gateway to the historic gems of Pompeii and Herculaneum, buried by erupting Vesuvius in AD79. You could also tour Sorrento and the Amalfi coast on that day, or simply settle for lunch on the Isle of Capri.

We carried 2,100 passengers from 47 countries, around two thirds of them were Americans, entranced by both the old and the new on this side of the Atlantic. There were around 250 Canadians, with Brits as the third largest group (120).

In Barcelona, the transfer from airport to ship was slick and easy, and the Brilliance of the Seas offered all we could expect, and more.

On board, meal times are as flexible as they can make them. Either fixed-time dining in two sittings in the swish Minstrel Restaurant, where you mostly share a table for ten, or you could opt for anytime dining by arrangement.

Some ships get rather formal at night but not this one. Some love to wheel out the finery at sea for a picture with the captain, but it is no problem if you prefer the half-way house.

All cabins – or staterooms as cruise lines call them these days – have a TV and a hairdryer, and I couldn't fault the space or service.

Food and entertainment are included in the price, though wine, alcoholic drinks and speciality restaurants cost extra.

We saw something of so many places in 12 days that would have cost much more by going independently, and a cocoon of cruise ship comfort and safety was a good way of doing it.

Tossing my Euro in the Trevi Fountain donation, I spotted the romantic legend: "Whoever tosses in a coin will one day return to Rome".

Let's hope the Brilliance of the Seas takes me there again one day.

Travel facts

- David Mastin was a guest of Royal Caribbean International which offers 12 nights on Brilliance of the Seas in summer 2010 from £1,372, incl flights ex-Heathrow to Barcelona and transfers. Package is available until November.
- Reservations: 0844 493 2061 and www.royalcaribbean.co.uk.

Thrilling opportunity to act

Thespians invite you to join the club

A BELL clangs in the early evening gloom of a foggy Victorian street as the muffin man does his rounds, ***writes Clare Grant***.

In the tall, forbidding house which is becoming her prison, Bella Manningham is slowly losing her mind.

Her husband's tyranny, the insolence of her housemaid and the oppressive atmosphere of her home are driving her to breaking-point.

Meg Nutt is directing the atmospheric thriller Gaslight for Tunbridge Wells Theatre Club, Trinity's resident drama group.

She says: "Gaslight is a hybrid of a whodunnit and a psychological thriller and it's got some comedy in it. It's the story of a dubious character called Jack Manningham who is trying to drive his wife mad.

"It's set in gloomy Victorian London, in a four-storey house which has been left to Bella (the heroine). It's continuous action over one night when her husband is trying to punish her and make her believe she is going mad. Her mother died of insanity, so it's easy to make her believe."

Professionally trained actor Mrs Nutt works during the day for Pepenbury, helping to provide assisted living to adults with learning disabilities. She joined Tunbridge Wells Theatre Club when she first came to the town.

"I was really looking for a group of a high standard that I could join and I saw an ad in the paper for open auditions for She Stoops to Conquer, and they cast me in the lead role."

So what made Mrs Nutt pick Gaslight?

"I wanted to do a thriller. I quite like thrillers. Tunbridge Wells Theatre Club does four productions a year which is quite a busy programme so we try and mix it up a bit. The last play they did was a comedy.

MADDENING: Gaslight is the latest production by the thriving Tunbridge Wells Theatre Club

"The one after this is The Winslow Boy. I've been reading all different kinds of thrillers and I got the script of Gaslight and I liked it. There aren't many good modern thrillers about." She adds that Rope, another thriller by the same playwright – Patrick Hamilton – is on in the West End at the moment.

Gaslight has been made into films three times – the most famous is the 1944 Hollywood version which starred Ingrid Bergman and Angela Lansbury.

Mrs Nutt says: "Angela Lansbury made her debut at 18 as the maid. It's a very good film – very well made. It got seven Oscar nominations, and won two."

Another less famous, but still very well-respected version is the 1940 British version – which is sometimes known as Angel Street to avoid confusion with the 1944 version.

But the title Gaslight has a specific significance according to Mrs Nutt: "The houses were lit by gas and every time the husband goes out the gas light fades, which means there's someone else in the house because the pressure drops when another light goes on."

Mrs Nutt hints at a heartbreaking scene in which Bella tells a visitor to the house of running from room to room looking for the intruder – although this is the least of the beleaguered wife's worries.

"Her husband gives her things, and they disappear and he accuses her of losing them or giving them away."

The play, which was written just after the First World War, was not popular when it came out, partly, Mrs Nutt suspects, because it deals with female suppression.

"In Victorian times, the husband more or less came and went as he liked – he could just go out to dinner and leave the wife behind."

Mrs Nutt comments that because of the theme, there is a lot of gender stereotyping in the play - an autocratic husband with the cowed wife. "It's vital to have those things in the play because it adds to the atmosphere."

Although the play has a far-fetched thriller storyline, Mrs Nutt was determined to honour the realism of the script, and she is using the set design to help with this.

"I didn't want Hammer House of Horror. It's very real. I'm trying very hard to work with my designer to get that frightening claustrophobic feeling – we're using dark greens and reds. But I don't want to cross that line between realism and pantomime."

She adds: "I have got a terrific group in it who are working very hard to give us a good performance, so let's hope it all works out."

Gaslight plays at Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, February 27 at 8pm. Tickets are £12.50. To book call 01892 678678 or see www.trinitytheatre.net

More about Tunbridge Wells Theatre Club can be found at www.ttctw.com or by asking at Trinity Theatre, where the club is based. The summer production will be The Winslow Boy.

Mrs Nutt says: "Members also become members of Trinity, so you get all the perks like ticket concessions. We do have quite an active social calendar and we are always looking for people to work backstage."

She adds that the club can also help people who are keen to learn about directing, too.

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How to wear nudes

WEEKEND • FEMALE

With **MELISSA WOODLAND**

IN THE spring/summer catwalk collections of 2010 one trend has stood out – the strong, block colour of 12 months ago was gone, and in its place the soft neopolitan ice-cream shades of cream, strawberry and milk chocolate. Nudes also are back in style.

This look is all about subtlety. The gentlest of tones have made room for statement shapes, with cut and draping the focus of the season. You need to be prepared to play with fabrics. Keep an eye out for ruching and pleats to pull off two trends in one outfit. Or layer chiffon over solid fabrics for a subtler interpretation.

The head-to-toe butterscotch look, as seen at Burberry, can be tricky to achieve. There is an art to perfecting this style and finding the balance between your complexion and the high street's offerings is your first challenge.

If you have a warmer complexion or tan easily, you're in luck. You'll be able to take your pick from these buttery shades. Opt for a pretty tea dress or jumpsuit in a neutral palette and wear with gold jewellery and killer heels.

However, this trend has the potential to wash out paler skin tones, so a safe option is mixing and matching pastels with your existing wardrobe. This toffee coloured leather pencil skirt from Marks and Spencer's latest range works perfectly. Team with a fitted tee and tailored jacket (with statement shoulders if you can) for a stylish, easy to wear outfit.

Your best bet if you're usually found wearing black is to incorporate hints of the trend in your accessories. Nude-coloured heels, a rich cream bag (like this one from Reiss) and a delicate chiffon scarf instantly add elegance and class to your favourite jeans, without you compromising your signature look.

As with any trend, only attempt it if you like it. If it doesn't suit you, don't worry, just try something else.

• Pale and interesting. Far left, Burberry on the catwalk; Leather Pencil Skirt £89 Marks and Spencer; Centre, Bingham bag £169 Reiss at Fenwick

IN BRIEF

New skills

IF YOU have ever been inspired to learn how to make your own jewellery, a new bead shop in Tunbridge Wells, Femme en rouge in Grosvenor Road, is hosting classes. Workshops cost £20 and includes champagne and cup–cake refreshments. Beginners class is February 27, intermediate class, March 13. Book on 01892 535255.

Jean Genius

THE latest trend to reach the high street is double denim. That 80s favourite we thought we'd seen the last of, is back and everyone's wearing it.

Luckily Gap is on hand to help us out and they are offering a 30 percent discount on jeans and denim shirts until Sunday, February 28. Gap, Royal Victoria Place 01892 517 210.

Watch out

IT'S the timepiece that's on every fashionista's wish list. The kooky, oversized, plastic Toy Watch is now available in Tunbridge Wells. Kitsch clothing has a selection of these Italian-made watches in violet and pink. Prices range from £129 to £279. 01892 513613.

Store launch

THE first 90 customers to make a purchase from the new Royal Victoria Place branch of Danish jewellers, Pandora, will have the chance to win a gorgeous piece of jewellery. 01892 528838.

Five of the best... foundations

IT MIGHT not seem like the sun is out much at the moment, but the UV rays that cause your skin so much harm are still around. Few of us have the discipline to remember to apply sunscreen when it's grey and cloudy outside, but it's still important to provide our skin with some protection even in the winter months.

As your face may be the only part of you exposed to the elements (I'm still wearing my winter coat!), the answer might just be your foundation. We've looked at a few of the best foundations with built in SPF (Sun Protection Factor) available. They'll keep your skin safe without adding time to your morning beauty routine.

• **Clinique's Even Better Makeup** is the one for you if your skin tone is patchy. The lightweight foundation is designed to reduce the appearance of irregular skin colour if you use it regularly, so you look better even without makeup. It leaves your skin smooth and dewy, while protecting it from the sun. SPF15, £20 for 30ml from Hoopers, TW.

• If your skin is looking a little dull, **Vitalumière liquid foundation from Chanel** will give you a lift. It transforms tired skin into a radiant, youthful complexion and, as it's also full of moisturiser, it revitalises at the same time. SPF15, from £30, Fenwick, TW.

• The latest trend in beauty is mineral make up, a more natural option which is designed to let your skin breathe. **Maybelline** has launched a range of mineral cosmetics, including the **Pure Minerals Foundation**. As it's a powder, it's lighter than a liquid foundation, but still contains the recommended sun protection and leaves skin looking flawless. SPF15, £9.78, Boots, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge.

• **Bobbi Brown's Skin Foundation** is designed to look like your own skin rather than make up. With built in pore minimisers, you are left with fresh, glowing skin. Unlike other foundations, you can apply a couple of layers of this make-up to create a more solid base. SPF15 £28 for 30ml, Fenwick, TW.

• Boots have added to their anti-ageing range with the **No7 Lift and Luminate Foundation**. Designed for more mature complexions, it contains ingredients that work together to firm, lift and tone the skin. SPF15 £15.50 for 30ml, Boots, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge.

See how the other half wash.

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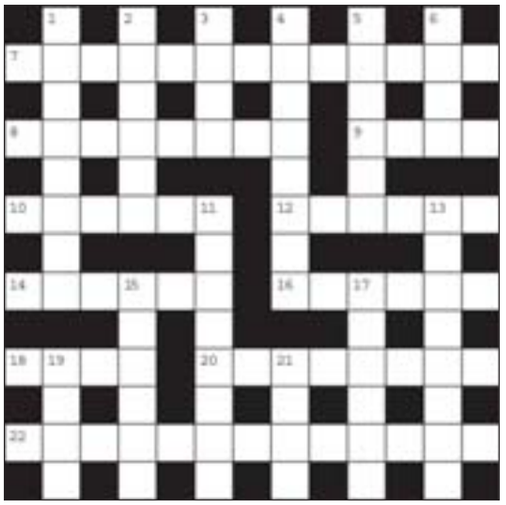
WATERSTONE'S
The last word in books

Waterstone's in Tunbridge Wells will present a £10 book token for the correct entry of the cryptic crossword picked at random.
Send your completed grids to KoS, Prize Crossword, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR. Closing date is Wednesday, March 3.



CROSSWORD No 376

Name .....

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CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

7. They are announced before the union is set up (8,5)
8. They break down while working (8)
9. They stop people telling jokes (4)
10. Remained abnormally steady (6)
12. But it's not included in Russian waters! (3,3)
14. A fearful noise is very funny! (6)
16. Seat is adjusted for a nap (6)
18. Toilet requisite put in a metal container (4)
20. Commonwealth citizen I'd put back in the Promised Land (8)
22. What broadcasters indulge in can have a harmful effect on health (13)

Down

1. This kind of field is naturally attractive (8)
2. How people speak or listen, we hear! (6)
3. The top of the form is missing - it's a girl (4)
4. Sweets that are merited, one hears (8)
5. Chaffed for being shabbily dressed (6)
6. Comfortable with arms raised (4)
11. He's included in a party of Americans (8)
13. Takes out obsolete pamphlets (8)
15. Different clue I had for the geometer (6)
17. To finish off I have some chicory (6)
19. A method to be used on holiday (4)
21. This will produce a sound memorandum (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE

QUICK CLUES

Across

7. Contemporary happenings (7,6)
8. Quell (8)
9. Delude (4)
10. Complied (6)
12. Detain (6)
14. Emergency (6)
16. Clothe (6)
18. A continent (4)
20. Entranced (8)
22. Orally (2,4,2,5)

Down

1. Salad plant (8)
2. Prize (6)
3. At one time (4)
4. Convince (8)
5. Offer (6)
6. Desist (4)
11. Comes down (8)
13. Sedateness (8)
15. Flavour (6)
17. Motive (6)
19. Inflamed eye-lid (4)
21. Secure (4))

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS 375: Across: 1 Flat; 8 Remarriage; 9 Composed; 10 Pots; 12 Barons; 14 Lascar; 15 Cogent; 17 Manger; 18 Dyes; 19 Remedial; 21 Supercargo; 22 Rest. Down: 2 Laboratory; 3 Trap; 4 Amuses; 5 Bridal; 6 Diapason; 7 Less; 11 Trade-marks; 13 Overseer; 16 Thrace; 17 Memory; 18 Disc; 20 Door. **QUICK SOLUTIONS 376:** Across: 7 Current events; 8 Suppress; 9 Dupe; 10 Obeyed; 12 Arrest; 14 Crisis; 16 Enrobe; 18 Asia; 20 Ecstatic; 22 By word of mouth. Down: 1 Cucumber; 2 Trophy; 3 Once; 4 Persuade; 5 Tender; 6 Stop; 11 Descends; 13 Sobriety; 15 Season; 17 Reason; 19 Stye; 21 Safe.

• The winner of the last crossword (no 375) is Clare Powis, Chestfield

one plus one

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Women seeking men

FUN-TO-BE-WITH, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 TXT

25YR old female, 5ft8, medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 TXT P

BLUE-EYED brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 TXT P

SOCIAL lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vGSOH, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 TXT

LOVING single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 TXT

SINGLE mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835 TXT

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 TXT P

PRINCESS Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 TXT P

HELLO I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 TXT

PETITE lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 TXT

LOVELY female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

MUM of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 TXT

38YR old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676 TXT

PRETTY, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 TXT

EASTBOURNE based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 TXT

LOVELY African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968 TXT

LONELY and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925 TXT

BLACK lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. Witm a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 TXT

CUTE single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 P

LOVELY, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 TXT P

SINGLE, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and WLTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481 TXT

SOCIAL lady, 41, 5'3", GSOH, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 TXT

SHY but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 TXT

BUBBLY, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, WLTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271 TXT

HELLO, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for a man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 TXT

HARD working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 TXT

ATTRACTIVE single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. WLTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182 TXT P

ATTRACTIVE, curvy, single mum, size 18, 44, kind, genuine, 5'5", loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 461830 TXT

PETITE, slim, honey-blonde lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 TXT

YOUNG mid 40s female, looking to meet a genuine single male for friendship and eventual long term relationship. Rochester. Box 855449 P

BUBBLY female, 44, brunette, N/S, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 TXT

HUMBLE lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286 TXT

YOUNG 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 TXT P

YOUNG-LOOKING 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 TXT

AFRICAN lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999 TXT

MAIDSTONE female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973 TXT

FEMALE, 48, divorced and happy,5ft 7. looking for genuine man, laughter,sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 is a must. Maidstone. Box 866380 TXT P

EASYGOING woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 TXT

CARING, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 TXT

PRETTY, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 TXT P

DIVORCED single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

OUTGOING lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 TXT

BIG lady (51), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862888 TXT

PETITE, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 TXT

VERY honest, reliable and trustworthy person, 52, 5ft7, blonde with blue eyes, loves cinema, meals out and nights out, seeking sociable male with same interests...Ashford. Box 466150 TXT

52YR old female, 5ft8, like walks, meals out, seaside and music, looking for a caring male to share fun times with. Canterbury. Box 466169

FEMALE 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100 TXT

SHORT 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with GSOH to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601 TXT

LOOKING for that special person, I'm a genuine lady, 54 but don't feel it! I'd like to meet someone to love and care for. Canterbury. Box 857551 TXT P

LOOKING for someone who enjoys the simple things in life; wind and rain in my face, 53, red hair, warm holidays love mowing the lawn. Box 860558 TXT P

PROFESSIONAL, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 TXT P

SMART petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 TXT

BUBBLY blonde, 56, hazel eyes, hard working, seeking a man, 45-55, to be my knight in shining armour.Herne Bay. Box 455417 TXT

STAR-STRUCK lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; WLTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240 TXT

GENUINE, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 TXT

POSITIVE woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 TXT

one plus one
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HI my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 TXT

HONEST & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 TXT

EARLY 60s lady, 5'2", blonde, blue eyes, likes affection, meals out, cinema, looking for a loving, non-smoking gent in the Brighton area. Box 466036 TXT

BRIGHTON lass, 61, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60s music and going to the theatre.Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107 TXT

OUTGOING lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 TXT

CUDDLY lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 TXT P

HI there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and WLTM like minded gent. Box 459467 TXT

HI my name's Mary, 62, looking for friendship with a kind, honest man. I like walking, meals out and holidays...how about we have a coffee? Box 866080 TXT

LOVING lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382 TXT

LOVING and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR...Margate. Box 460082 TXT

VERY young 64 year old lady, loves socialising, walks, music, dogs; seeks intelligent, unpretentious ex-forces/fireman male? For committed relationship. Les please leave contact number. Box 462717 TXT

LOVELY female, 65, 5ft2, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763 TXT

Women seeking women

HONEST female, 43, 5t2, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Rochester. Box 466078 TXT

LOOKING for a female to have some fun with. I'm a 47yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, GSOH and I'm friendly. Margate area. Box 859781 TXT

SINCERE female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham. Box 456805 TXT

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Men seeking women

AYLESFORD male, 29, looking to meet a nice, bubbly, outgoing girl who's after friendship, chats, walks and more in time. Box 463516 TXT

BUBBLY male, 33 looking for a fun lady to go out with, like clubs, meals out, the usual things. Gillingham. Box 465643 TXT

SINGLE dad, 34, 6ft, stocky, GSOH, seeking a fun and caring single lady for true romance. Maidstone. Box 462509 TXT

SINGLE dad, 34, 6ft, brown hair, blue eyes, looking for a female to share days out, nights out and good times with. Maidstone. Box 462510 TXT

HONEST sincere male, 35, 6ft, blonde hair/blue eyes, slim, likes the usual pubs, clubs, meals, golf and films, seeks fun lady for honest relationship. Aylesford. Box 462686 TXT

HI there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 TXT P

FIT, active man, I'm single, good looking, 40yrs old. I like cinema, walks and eating in and out. Ashford area. Box 465467 TXT

HI I'm Kevin, 37, 6ft1, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar girl to find love with. Box 449844 TXT P

SEEKING genuine lady. I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649 TXT

LOVING male, 39, loves dogs, blonde hair looking for a partner to help walk them and get some fresh air, enjoy dinning out /in. Hastings. Box 463717 TXT

HARD-WORKING male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship. Maidstone. Box 464266 TXT

GENUINE male, 39, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'8", medium build, likes cooking, dining out, quiet holidays, seeking a lovely lady for good company. Ramsgate. Box 463493 TXT

YOUNG looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113 P

SHY 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647 TXT

38YR old male with brown hair, big smile, big heart and big personality seeks caring and affectionate lady for love in all weather! Box 434270 TXT P

CARING loving and genuine guy, hard working and shy at times. I'm 40, slim build, 5ft10, blue eyes, short hair. Seeking genuine lady in Kent. Box 465529 TXT

FUN-LOVING male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333 TXT

ROMANTIC male, 40, 6ft, slim build, GSOH, brown hair/eyes, enjoys football, pool, DIY, socialising with friends, cinema, seeks female, 36-45, GSOH, romantic. Sheerness. Box 462768 TXT

HI there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317 TXT

HI I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372 TXT

OUTGOING, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750 TXT

BRIGHTON based man, 41, 5ft10, slim build, shaved head. Looking for fun loving lady to share good times. I enjoy cooking, reading and walking. Box 465037 TXT

GILLINGHAM male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate! Box 465158 TXT

LOVING, caring and reliable, single male, 45, 5ft6, dark hair/blue eyes. I'm seeking a relationship with loving lady 34-56. I like holidays, theatre, music etc. Ashford. Box 465408 TXT

CARING, romantic and loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5ft11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair. I like walks, music, animals and pubs. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 465613 TXT

SINGLE dad, confident, nice smile, 42, 5'10", nice build, single dad, own home, loves cooking, going out, sports, WLTM someone similar to me. Maidstone. Box 462077 TXT

SLIM male, 45, 5ft11, reliable and loyal, interests include walking, pubs, films, looking for a female, slim or curvy, for friendship initially. Gillingham. Box 462780 TXT

SINCERE guy, 45, 6ft, slim, likes clubs, pubs, bowling, cinema, meals out, looking for a slim female for a stable relationship. Gillingham. Box 462529 TXT

SINGLE guy looking for love, 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, medium build, very caring and loving, likes holidays and theatre, seeks loving lady. Ashford. Box 466131 TXT

ROMANTIC male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465817 TXT

WARM, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in. seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things. seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

SINGLE guy, 47, 5ft8, been hurt in the passed, works full time, looking for a Sussex based lady to share life with. Kids not problem. Box 466082 TXT

EASYGOING guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461443 TXT

HELLO there, I'm a 47yr old guy, 5ft11, dark brown hair. I'm professional and work hard and enjoy cars, history, walking, cycling, architecture. Kent. Box 463244 TXT

47YR old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life. Seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463623

GENUINE, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50. Deal, Kent. Box 460441 TXT

SINCERE genuine man, 47, but looks younger, 5ft6, cropped hair, blue eyes, single, likes cycling nights in/out, seeks younger female for fun, friendship, ltr. Margate.. Box 867708 TXT P

SINCERE, down-to-earth male, 47, 6ft, good-looking, athletic, own business, likes swimming, cinema, music, gigs, walking, seeking slim, laid-back lady, 28-45, for potential LTR. Box 440847

GOOD looking divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

EASY-GOING professional 50yr old man, looking for a woman for friendship, maybe more. I enjoy most thing in life, especially holidays abroad and romantic dinners. Box 452860 TXT

DOWN-TO-EARTH, fun-loving gent, 49, 5ft6, slim build, dark hair. I have GSOH and enjoy the simple things in life; pubs, music, country walks etc. Maidstone. Box 465464 TXT

SINGLE father, kind and caring, 5'9", blue eyes, slim build, lives by the sea, seeking as lovely lady to share life with. Deal. Box 463679 TXT

KIND intelligent man, 52, 5ft7, average build, grey-green eyes, enjoys reading, walks and meeting people, WLTM similar attributed lady for friendship, maybe more? Folkestone. Box 465867 TXT

ASHFORD man, 54, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft4, divorced-grown up daughter, enjoy walking, days in/out, quiet drink and football, looking for an educated female, 40-60. Box 465231 TXT

OUTGOING and jovial man, 54, loves jokes, travelling, sports, athletics, gymnastics, solvent, seeking a professional lady, reasonably tall, brunettes or ginger hair preferred. St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 462867 TXT

ACTIVE and easy-going male, mid 50s, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771 TXT

EASYGOING man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Box 861243 TXT

SOLVENT male, 59, likes animals, has own home, hair and car, looking for a lady who likes to enjoy life, enjoys drinks and the countryside. Chatham. Box 463178 TXT

ADVENTUROUS male, 57, 5ft7, likes walks, animals, eating in and out, camping and holidays, WLTM likewise lady with similar interests. Box 449963 TXT

SOCIABLE lad, 59, from Ashford, enjoy motor racing, films and watching television, looking for a lady to share the good things in life with. Box 465067 TXT

TALL, dark, divorced male, 59, likes most music/dining out/cinema, seeking female to share my Tesco trolley for friendship, hopefully more...Collette, please call again...leave contact details! Box 444251 TXT

WELL built male, 62, own home, likes 60s rock, smoker, likes driving, looking to spend quality time with a special lady. Brighton. Box 461039

LORRY driver, 63, 5ft9, slim, separated, likes going to the pub, playing golf and music, looking for a lovely lady to share life with. Maidstone. Box 462530 TXT

CARING male, in his 60s, 6'2", likes theatre, dancing, pubs, shopping, dining out, non-smoker, seeking a similar female for a relationship. East Sussex. Box 462206 TXT

Men seeking men

STRAIGHT acting/looking guy, 31, down to earth, blond hair/blue eyes, toned, likes music, films, going out, looking for a nice guy for a meaningful relationship.Ashford. Box 464617 TXT

40YR old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking. Looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132 TXT

SEEKING down-to-earth guy for fun and friendship. I'm a 42yr old guy living in Sheerness. Box 459219 TXT

ACTIVE 52yr old man in fairly good shape, looking to meet a nice man for relaxation, conversation and good times. Box 452249 TXT

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Family atmosphere restored

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY **JON COATES**

A SUCCESSION of landmark pubs in Sevenoaks have closed and been converted into restaurants in recent years.

While The Vine, formerly a pub of the same name, and Thai Square, formerly The Dorset Arms, have undoubtedly added to the fine dining scene of the town, The White Hart's revamp as a Blubecker's chain restaurant was less well received.

This was a shame considering the rich history of the former coaching inn built in the 17th century, which acted as the entrance by a toll gate to the market town for travellers heading up to London for more than 300 years.

Revamp

So on a recent visit to The White Hart it was good to see that its revamp as a Brunning and Price pub, a small family-run chain with other interests in Tunbridge Wells, Eridge and Horsham, was more in keeping with its history and character.

The White Hart now seems to have found a sound footing as a warm, country pub serving good food, with its wooden beams and sprawling layout with lots of small areas sheltered from others being maintained.

Visitors are given a warm welcome and can order food at the bar after finding a table and taking in the impressive menu.

This includes hearty starters like braised leek, potato and thyme soup with chunky bread, pigeon wellington with wilted spinach, and wild mushroom and artichoke pastry with beetroot cream.

But we decided to go straight for the main course to leave room for pudding. I opted for the 10oz rump steak with wild mushrooms, grilled tomato and chips (£16.95).

This was perfectly cooked and really tender despite being a thick piece of steak, the wild mushrooms were delicious and the chunky homemade chips were the best I have had for a very long time. Truly a hearty meal but I ate every mouthful.

My guest went for warm crab linguine with ginger, red chilli and coriander (£8.50) off the Light Bites section of the menu, and a green salad with apple and ginger dressing (£3) as a side order.

She said the pasta dish was delicious, with the slight heat of the chilli, the ginger and the coriander really coming through with the crab. The salad was also a hit, with the ginger dressing adding a nice finish to the slices of apple and crisp green leaves.

With this we ordered two glasses of Fairleigh Estate sauvignon blanc white wine (£3.75 a glass), which like most of the grape variety grown in the Marlborough region of New Zealand, was bursting with fruit and very refreshing.

For dessert I went for sticky toffee pudding with butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice cream (£4.95), which was tasty and more-ish without being too heavy, and a single espresso (£1.90).

My guest went for the cheese board (£7.95), which was okay but a slight disappointment considering the quality of the rest of the meal.

There really was not enough cheese to justify the price tag and serving it with a few shop-bought crackers, a few small pieces of celery and a pile of chutney, seemed to show a lack of effort.

But overall this was a really good meal in a lovely country pub and for a final bill of £50.75 was good value, which is worth a visit to try for yourself.

The White Hart,
Tonbridge Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1SG
Telephone: 01732 452022
www.whitehart-sevenoaks.co.uk

Review visits and pays for meals anonymously.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PHILLIPS CONTRACTS LIMITED
Company Number 05364694

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, on Wednesday 24 March 2010 at 12.00 noon for the purpose provided for in Section 98 et seq. of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Ian Yerrill, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Busines Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH will, during the period before the date of the Meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they reasonably require.
Dated 20 February 2010
Christopher Phillips, Director

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY
LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT 1991

Licence to use a premises as an establishment for special treatment. Take notice that I, Adam Wood being the occupier/owner of the undermentioned premises have applied to the Council of the London Borough of Bromley for the Licensing of 4A Manor Road, Beckenham, BR3 5LE under the above Act as an establishment for Special Treatment. The nature of the Special Treatments to be offered are: Acupuncture and Tui Na (Chinese Massage). Any person wishing to object to the application should do so by giving notice in writing stating the grounds of objection to the Chief Environmental Health Officer, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 3UH, within 21 days. Persons objecting to the application should be prepared to attend in person at a public hearing before a Committee of the Council.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00139/FL & TM/10/00027/LB – 122 Wateringbury Road East Malling West Malling ME19 6JD – Mathew Davis is applying for change of use of agricultural land to residential use, erection of agricultural fencing, erection of oak framed garage, vehicular crossover, driveway and gates. Reason: LB

TM/10/00288/FL – Leybourne Wood Seven Mile Lane Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8QY – Mr John Bailey is applying for proposed detached outbuilding/storage building to side of dwelling (resubmission of TM/09/00351/FL). Reason: DEPART HH

(A) TM/10/00269/FLX & (B) TM/10/00270/LBX – Manor Farm 108 Old Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PP – Mr And Mrs M English are applying for renewal of planning permission ref. (A) TM/05/01873/FL (renewal of planning permission ref. TM/01/00119/FL (change of use to residential with access from Old Road) & (B) TM/05/01874/LB (renewal of Listed Building consent ref. TM/01/00118/LB (removal of windows and staircase, new windows, staircase and doors on elevations, demolition of walls and subsequent new walls, new internal doors, roof timbers and flue (C/U of Bldg. G to res)). Reason: CA LB

TM/10/00319/FL – Plot 1 Little Mount The Street Plaxtol Sevenoaks Kent – Mr T Groom is applying for detached two car parking barn to frontage of plot 1. Reason: CA

TM/10/00294/FL – Court Lodge Plaxdale Green Road Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7PG – Mr Harry Bott is applying for partial change of use of barn for up to 14 events and functions per year, in addition to continued use as ancillary residential amenity and agricultural farm storage. Reason: CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HH	Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 21 March 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

28 February 2010

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Email admin@redstarfireandsecurity.com

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Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email service@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk

Vehicle Sales Administrator
Welling
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: W J King
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email careers@wjking.com

Veterinary Nurse/ Receptionist
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Ralph Chamber & Associates
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 239335
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Kitchen Assistant
Maidstone
Salary: £14,588- £16,638 pro-rata
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To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0049
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Part Time Cook
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Birchwood House Rest Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
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Child Care

Registered Manager
London
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 1st March 2010
To apply/more information: Boulters, The
Quoting Job Ref: kos
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Dance and Sports activities After School Club sessions
Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 5th March 2010
To apply/more information: Kent Play Clubs
Quoting Job Ref: kos
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Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

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Rochester
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To apply/more information: Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
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Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday, 5th March
To apply/more information: Walmer Science College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
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Lecturer in Electrical/Electronic ngineering
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Closing Date: Friday 5 March
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0678
Tel: 01634 884402
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Lecturer in Civil Engineering
Medway
Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 5 March
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0333
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering
Medway
Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 5 March
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0219
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

...Jobs for Kent continued from page 36

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

CHURCH ROAD, WAREHORNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of cabling for the installation of a new electricity supply and carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Road, Warehorne, on or after 1 March 2010 for an estimated period of 14 working days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between Bridge Farm and Terry House. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of B2067 Warehorne Road and Hogg Lane. The alternative route will be via Church Road, B2067 Kenardington Road, Appledore Road, Church Lane, Firs Lane, Hogg Lane and Arrowhead Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Canterbury from as described in the schedule to this order on 01 March 2010 for an estimated period of as described in the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described below.

Road Name: **Long Meadow Way, Canterbury**
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: 01 to 04 March 2010
Diversion: Tenterden Drive

Road Name: **Bawden Close, Canterbury**
Extent: Junction with Long Meadow Way
Dates: 01 to 04 March 2010
Diversion: Tenterden Drive, Farleigh Road and Headcorn Drive

Road Name: **Greenhill Road, Herne Bay**
Extent: Poplar Drive to Kingfisher Court
Dates: 11 to 16 March 2010
Diversion: Bullockstone Road, Owls Hatch Road, Thornden Wood Road and Greenhill Road West

Road Name: **Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay**
Extent: Kingfisher Court to Bridle Way
Dates: 11 to 16 March 2010
Diversion: Bullockstone Road, Owls Hatch Road, Thornden Wood Road and Greenhill Road West

Road Name: **Chestnut Drive, Herne Bay**
Extent: Junction with Green Hill Road
Dates: 11 to 16 March 2010
Diversion: Poplar Drive

Road Name: **Mill Road, Sturry**
Extent: Fordwich Road to Forge Close
Dates: 17 to 19 March 2010
Diversion: Vehicles over 7.5 Tons will be diverted via A291, A299, A290, London Road, Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road and Sturry Road.
Light vehicles and buses will be diverted via Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road

Road Name: **Fordwich Road, Sturry**
Extent: Junction with Mill Road
Dates: 17 to 19 March 2010
Diversion: Vehicles over 7.5 Tons will be diverted via A291, A299, A290, London Road, Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Water Lane
Light vehicles and buses will be diverted via Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road, Mill Road and Water Lane

Road Name: **High Street, Sturry**
Extent: Junction with Mill Road
Dates: 17 to 19 March 2010
Diversion: Vehicles over 7.5 Tons will be diverted via A291, A299, A290, London Road, Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road and Sturry Road, Mill Road and High Street
Light vehicles and buses will be diverted via Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road, Mill Road and High Street

Road Name: **High Street**
Extent: The County Council of Kent (High Street, Sturry) (One-Way) order, 1967 is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order

This order will come into force on Monday 01 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY
PROHIBITION OF DRIVING TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Canterbury from as described in the schedule to this order on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of as described below or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be named below

Road Name: **Cockering Road**
Extent: Strangers Lane to Milton Manor Road
Dates: Between 15 and 18 March 2010 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Strangers Lane, A28 Ashford Road, Milton Manor Road

Road Name: **Ford Hills, Herne Bay**
Extent: A299 Slip Road to Margate Road
Dates: Between 18 and 19 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Northbound: Margate Road, Thanet Way bridge, Thanet Way, Sweechbridge Road
Southbound: A299 Slip Road, Thanet Way, Margate Road

Road Name: **Cockering Road/ Milton Manor Road**
Extent: A28 Ashford Road to The Crescent
Dates: Between 16 and 17 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: A28 Ashford Road, Shalmsford Street

This order will come into force on Monday 15 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HERNE BAY
20 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 20 mph speed limit in Herne Bay on the following roads or parts of road:

St Georges Terrace	Mortimer Street
Sea View Square	Market Street
Charles Street	Chapel Street
Prospect Hill	Tower Gardens
North Street	William Street
East Street	Bank Street
Beach Street	Richmond Street
Dolphin Street	Station Road
Pier Avenue	Oxenden Street
Lane End	

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way.

Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 22 March 2010.

ADMIRALTY WALK, WHITSTABLE
PROHIBITION OF DRIVING TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Admiralty Walk, Whitstable from its junction with Joy Lane to its junction with Fairway Crescent on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of 12 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Joy Lane, Faversham Road, St Marys Grove, Bowyer Road and Preston Parade

OLD TREE ROAD, HOATH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Old Tree Road, Hoath, on or after 15 March 2010, for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Maypole Lane and Mill Road. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Maypole Lane, School Lane and Mill Road.

SHALLOAK ROAD, STURRY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shalloak Road, Sturry, on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of one night or until the works are complete. The works are planned to be carried out between the hours of 7.00 pm and 2.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Broad Oak Lodge Farm. There is no access for through traffic between the junctions of Vauxhall Road and Sweechgate. The alternative route will be via Vauxhall Road, Sturry Road, Mill Road, Sturry Hill and Sweechgate.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name: **Beacon Drive, Bean**
Extent: Between its junctions with High Street and School Lane.
Date: 3rd March 2010 for 6 days.
Diversion: High Street and School Lane.
Purpose: Thin surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe**
Extent: Between its junctions with Stanhope Road and Sun Road.
Date: 31st March 2010 for 2 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Stanhope Road, Milton Road, Milton Street and Manor Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **St Johns Road, Stone**
Extent: From its junction with London Road.
Date: 1st April 2010 for 4 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: St Johns Road, London Road, The Brent, Watling Street and Hill House Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Cotton Lane, Stone**
Extent: Between its junctions with Bow Arrow Lane and London Road.
Date: 1st April 2010 for 4 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Crossways Boulevard, St Clements Way and London Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Green Street Green Road, Dartford**
Extent: Between its junctions with Gore Road and Princes Road.
Date: 6th April 2010 for 7 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Darenth Hill, Parsonage Lane, Hawley Road, Lowfield Street and Princes Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Market Street, Dartford**
Extent: Between its junctions with Overy Street and Lowfield Street.
Date: 13th April 2010 for 3 nights between 20.00 – 05.00 hours.
Diversion: Home Gardens, Westgate Road, Highfield Road, West Hill, Shepherds Lane, Princes Road and Lowfield Street.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Longfield Road, Longfield**
Extent: From Nurstead Lane to the Railway Bridge.
Date: 15th April 2010 for 3 nights between 19:00 – 00:00 hours.
Diversion: A227 Wrotham Road, A2, New Barn Road and Main Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Cross Road, Dartford**
Extent: Between its junctions with Wellington Road and Marlborough Road.
Date: 28th April 2010 for 4 days 09:00 – 15:00 hours.
Diversion: Dartford Road, Shepherds Lane and Christchurch Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Marlborough Road, Dartford**
Extent: Between its junctions with Dartford Road and Cross Road.
Date: 28th April 2010 for 4 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Dartford Road, Shepherds Lane and Christchurch Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Galley Hill Road, Swanscombe**
Extent: Between its junctions with High Street and Lower Road.
Date: 30th April 2010 for 5 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Thames Way, Springhead Road, Hall Road, A2, Bean Road, St Clements Way and London Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Tower Road, Dartford**
Extent: Between its junctions with Miskin Road and West Hill.
Date: 4th May 2010 for 3 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Miskin Road, Shepherds Lane and West Hill.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Lowfield Street, Dartford**
Extent: Between its junctions with Princes Road and Walnut Tree Avenue.
Date: 6th May 2010 for 5 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Oakfield Lane, Heath Lane Upper and Princes Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

HONEYWOOD ROAD AND HONEYWOOD PARKWAY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Honeywood Road and Honeywood Parkway between the Whitfield Roundabout and Tesco Superstore on or after 1 March 2010 for an estimated period of twelve nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be in various phases as signed on site.

This order will come into force on Monday 1 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

CHURCH PATH, DEAL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of new electrical supply works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Path, Deal between the junctions of The Grove and Cowper Road on or after 15 March 2010 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Cowper Road, London Road and The Grove.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name: **Waterdales, Northfleet**
Extent: Between its junctions with Springhead Road and Waterdale Shops.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 4 days.
Diversion: Vale Road, Thames Way and Springhead Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Villa Road, Higham**
Extent: From its junction with Gravesend Road and Forge Lane.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Forge Lane.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme on Gravesend Road.

Road Name: **Villa Road, Higham**
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days
Purpose: Prohibit Right Turn from Villa Road into Forge Lane

Road Name: **Telegraph Hill, Higham**
Extent: Between its junctions with Gravesend Road and Hermitage Lane.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Hermitage Lane and Forge Lane.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme on Gravesend Road.

Road Name: **Pear Tree Lane, Higham**
Extent: Between its junctions with Gravesend Road and Tanyard Hill.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Tanyard Hill, The Street and Forge lane.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme on Gravesend Road.

Road Name: **Wainscott ByPass, Higham**
Extent: From its junction with Halsted Road.
Date: 5th March 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion: Exit the next available slip road, Lower Rochester Road, enter back onto Wainscott ByPass London Bound to the Higham Exit.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Leith Park Road, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Parrock Road to Windmill Street.
Date: 9th March 2010 for 3 days.
Diversion: Parrock Road, Old Road East and Windmill Street.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Road Name: **Brice Road, Higham**
Extent: Between its junctions with Villa Road and Forge Lane.
Date: 25th March 2010 for 2 days.
Diversion: Forge Lane, Gravesend Road and Villa Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Dorset Crescent, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Cerne Road and St Francis Avenue.
Date: 26th March 2010 for 2 days.
Diversion: St Francis Avenue and Cerne Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Old Road East (Echo Square Roundabout), Gravesend**
Extent: Echo Square Rounabout from its junction with Old Road East, Sun lane, Cross Lane East, Parrock Road and Whitehill Road.
Date: 19th April 2010 for 3 nights between 19.00 – 00.00 hours.
Diversion: From Parrock Road – Parrock Road, Parrock Street, Lord Street and Windmill Street.
From Whitehill Road – Whitehill Lane and Valley Drive.
From Cross Lane East – Singlewell Road, Hever Court Road and Valley Drive.
From Sun Lane – Whitehill Road, Whitehill Lane and Valley Drive.
From Olde Road East – Rochester Road, East Milton Road, Milton Road, Parrock Street, Lord Street and Windmill Street.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Wrotham Road, Meopham**
Extent: Between its junctions with Meadfield Road and Shipley Hills Road.
Date: 22nd April 2010 for 3 nights 19.00 – 00.00hours.
Diversion: Longfield Road, Main Road, Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage Lane, Main Road, Dartford Road, A20 Main Road, Gorse Hill, London Road and Gravesend Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Wrotham Road, Istead Rise**
Extent: Between its junctions with No.301 and Lewis Road.
Date: 22nd April 2010 for 5 nights 19.00 - 00.00 hours.
Diversion: Longfield Road, New Barn Road, Hall Road and The A2.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Parrock Street, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Wellington Street to Lord Street.
Date: 23rd April 2010 for 4 days 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Lord Street, Windmill Street, Old Road East and Parrock Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

Road Name: **Whitehill Lane, Gravesend**
Extent: Between its junctions with Truro Road and Whitehill Parade.
Date: 26th April 2010 for 4 days 09.00 – 15.00 hours.
Diversion: Valley Drive, Old Road East and Whitehill Road.
Purpose: Carriageway surfacing scheme.

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic and introducing a one way restriction on various roads, Gravesend as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to take place during a 12 week period. These restrictions will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name: **Sun Lane**
Extent: Northbound only one way restriction between Sharland Road to Echo Square Roundabout
Diversion: Whitehill Road, Whitehill Lane, Christian Fields Avenue, Ash Road and Kitchener Avenue.

Road Name: **Portland Avenue**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane and then at its junction with Central Avenue. (Not simultaneously)
Diversion: Sun Lane - Central Avenue and Cross Lane East
Central Avenue – Sun Lane and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Ferndale Road**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane and then at its junction with Central Avenue. (Not simultaneously)
Diversion: Sun Lane - Central Avenue and Cross Lane East
Central Avenue – Sun Lane and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Malvina Avenue**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane
Diversion: Central Avenue and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Smarts Road**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Sun Lane
Diversion: Central Avenue and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Devonshire Road**
Extent: Northbound only one way restriction between Cross Lane East to Old Road East
Diversion: Singlewell Road and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Old Road East**
Extent: Closed at its junction with Devonshire Road
Diversion: Singlewell Road and Cross Lane East

Road Name: **Singlewell Road**
Extent: Southbound only one way restriction between Old Road East to Cross Lane
Diversion: Cross Lane West, New House Lane, Dashwood Road and Old Road West

Road Name: **Sun Lane**
Extent: Northbound only one way restriction from Kitchener Avenue to Sharland Road
Diversion: Whitehill Road, Whitehill Lane, Christian Fields Avenue, Ash Road and Kitchener Avenue.

The purpose of restrictions is to facilitate replacement of gas mains.

Please Note: Access will be maintained for all residents, businesses and their visitors as much as possible during the works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

A25 MAIN ROAD, SUNDRIDGE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A25 Main Road, Sundridge from its junction with Chevening Road 220 meters east to outside Lamb Inn.

A 7.5T weight limit (except for access) will be in place on B2211 Chevening Road, Ovenden Road and Sundridge Road from the junction with A25 Main Road Sundridge to A224 Morants Court Road Dunton Green.

A 24hour no parking order from the junction A25 Main Road Sundridge to Combe Bank Drive will also be in place.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

HGV:
A25 Brasted Road Westerham, A233 Beggars Lane Westerham, London Road Westerham, Westerham Hill Westerham, Main Road Biggin Hill, Leaves Green Road Biggin Hill, Westerham Road Leaves Green, Westerham Road Keston, A232 Croydon Road Keston, A21 Farnborough Common Farnborough, Farnborough Way Green Street Green, Sevenoaks Road Pratt's Bottom, A224 Orpington By-pass Badgers Mount, London Road Halstead, Polhill Halstead, Morants Court Road Dunton Green, London Road Dunton Green, The Square Riverhead, rejoin A25 Maidstone Road, Worships Hill Riverhead, Westerham Road Bessels Green, Main Road Sundridge.

Light Vehicles:
B2211 Chevening Road Sundridge, Ovenden Road Chevening, Sundridge Road Dunton Green, A224 Morants Court Road Dunton Green, London Road Dunton Green, The Square Riverhead, rejoin A25 Maidstone Road, Worships Hill Riverhead, Westerham Road Bessles Green, Main Road Sundridge.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas mains renewal.

KNOCKHOLT ROAD, HALSTEAD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Knockholt Road, Halstead near Cherrywood in various locations.

The Order will become effective on 1st March 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 7th March 2010 and 14th March 2010. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Otford lane, Polhill, Star Hill Road, Old London Road and Harrow Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate soak away cleansing and drainage surveys.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Swale as described in the schedule to this order on or after 6 March 2010 for an estimated period of as described below or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be named below.

Road Name: **Abbots Road**
Extent: From its junction with Arden Road to its junction with Millfield
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Arden Road and Millfield

Road Name: **Cole Road**
Extent: From its junction with Abbey Fields to its junction with Arden Road
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: No alternative route available

Road Name: **Arden Road**
Extent: From its junction with Millfield to its merger with Abbots Field
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Millfield, Cluny Road and Abbots Road

Road Name: **Millfield Road**
Extent: Whole length
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: No alternative route available

Road Name: **Cluny Road**
Extent: From its junction with Millfield Road to its junction with Abbots Road
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Millfield Road, Cheney Road and Abbots Road

Road Name: **Cheney Road**
Extent: From its junction with Abbots Road to a point 25metres south of its junction with Millfield Road
Dates: Between 6 and 10 March 2010 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Diversion: Millfield Road, Cluny Road and Abbots Road

This order will come into force on Saturday 06 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

HERESON ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway improvement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hereson Road, Ramsgate from Thanet Road to Victoria Road on or after 01 March 2010 for an estimated period of four weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Montefiore Avenue, Dumpton Park Drive and Victoria Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 01 March 2010, will be in operation when appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

COTTINGTON ROAD, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works in connection with the construction of a new road and the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Cottington Road, Minster on or after 3 March 2010 for an estimated period of 7 working days or until the works are complete.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

The road will be closed to through traffic between the junctions of Ebbsfleet Lane and Foads Lane The alternative route will be eastbound via Ebbsfleet Lane, A256 Sandwich Road, Cliifsend Road and Foads Lane; westbound via Foads Hill, A299 Canterbury Road East and Thorne Hill.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 28) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) at the junctions of the following roads:-

Molineux Road at the junction with Domneva Road and St Mary's Road;

St Mary's Road both sides at the bend near to No 4a St Mary's Road, at the junction with Taylor Road and the junction with Domneva Road

Taylor Road at the junctions with St Mary's Road and Monkton Road

Monkton Road on the northern side from the junction with Tothill Street to outside No 9 Monkton Road.

Tothill Street outside No 2 Tothill Street.

Thorne Street at the junctions with Taylor Road and Domnerva Road.

It is also proposed to introduce no waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday (single yellow lines on the west side of Taylor Road from a point 18 metres South of the junction with Monkton Road for a distance of 50 metres South of that point.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate and Minster Public Library, 4A Monkton Road, Minster in Thanet, Kent during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.thanet.canterbury@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 22 March 2010.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 29) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road:-

Upper Dane Road:
(a) On the south west side between points 10 metres north east and 10 metres south west of the junction with Olave Road;
(b) on the north east side between points 10 metres south east and 10 metres north west of the junction with Victoria Road; from a point 10 metres south east of the junction with Alfred Road to a point opposite a point with the common boundary of Nos 48 and 50 Upper Dane Road;

Victoria Road: On both sides from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction

Hastings Avenue: On the north east side between points 10 metres north east and 10 metres south west of the junction with Olave Road;

Alfred Road: On both sides from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction;

Olave Road: On both sides -
(a) from the junction with Upper Dane Road for a distance of 10 metres in a south westerly direction;
(b) from the junction with Hastings Avenue for a distance of 10 metres in a north easterly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 22 March 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Districts of Thanet, Canterbury and Swale

A299 THANET WAY (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS & PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs and maintenance, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on A299 Thanet Way on or after 11 March 2010 for an estimated period of three the weeks or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is:

a) To impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on both carriageways of the A299 Thanet Way, between St. Nicholas Roundabout and Brenley Corner, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.
b) To prohibit traffic on the following off-slips of the A299 Thanet Way, as and when the relevant signs and barriers are displayed on site.

Wantsum Way, St Nicholas at Wade:
From 11 March 2010 for 3 days.
Alternative route via A299 Thanet Way London bound, North Stream, Brook Lane, A299 Thanet Way coast bound, Chambers Wall and Court Road.

Wey Street Farm, Hernhill (coast bound slip road):
From 17 March 2010 for 3 days.
Alternative route via A299 Thanet Way Coast Bound, Highstreet Road, Thanet Way overbridge, A299 Thanet Way London bound, Fostall and Kemsdale Road.

Chambers Wall, St Nicholas at Wade:
28 March 2010 for 3 days.
Alternative route via A299 Thanet Way coast bound, St. Nicholas Roundabout, A299 Thanet Way London Bound, Wantsum Way, Court Road and Chambers Wall.

Thanet Way (Chislet) off-slip leading to Sweechbridge Road
30 March 2010 for 2 days.
A299 Thanet Way coast bound, Brook Lane, North Stream, A299 Thanet Way London bound, Heart in Hand Road and Sweechbridge Road.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

COMP LANE JUNCTION WITH POTASH LANE & WINDMILL HILL, PLATT (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Comp Lane at the junction with Potash Lane on or after Monday 1st March 2010 for 1 week and Windmill Hill outside Hurst Cottage on or after Monday 8th March 2010 for 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Comp Lane eastbound traffic is via Long Mill Lane, Potash Lane and for westbound traffic via Beechin Wood Lane, Potash Lane and for Windmill Hill via Comp Lane, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road, A25 Maidstone Road, Windmill Hill and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to renew a frame and cover in the highway. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Kenton Stewart of Carillion Telent on 01795 437805.

SOUTH ASH ROAD , STANSTED (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The South Ash Road ,Stansted on or after Friday 19th March 2010 for a period of up to 4 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is A20 London bound , A227 Gravesend Rd, A227 Wrotham Rd, A227 South St, A227 Wrotham Rd,B260 Longfield, B260 main road , Hartley, Ash Road , Chapel Wood Road, Ash Road The Street and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for carriageway surface dressing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Robert Seggie on 01622 798456.

STANSTED HILL, STANSTED & SWANTON ROAD, MEREWORTH (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stansted Hill outside the reservoir for 137m west on or after Tuesday 16th March 2010 for a period of up to 3 days and Swanton Road on or after Tuesday 30th March 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for Stansted Hill via Plaxdale Green Road, Tumblefield Road, Wrotham Hill Road, Platt House Lane, Vigo Road and for Swanton Road via Stan Lane, Mereworth Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to renew aerial cables and tree cutting. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Nicola Webb for Stansted Hill and Tracy Zeal for Swanton Road on 08700 500792.

ROUGHWAY LANE PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Roughway Lane Lyons Plaxtol from Rats Castle East to junction with The Hurst on or after Friday 19th March 2010 up to 4 Weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for Roughways Lane , Dunk Green, Hampton Road, Park Road, Gover Hill and The Hurst.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to construct retaining feature to prevent subsidence of carriageway. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Robert Seggie on 01622 882274.

HIGH STREET, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDERS AND NO RIGHT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Street, from Portman Park to Vale Road on or after Monday 15th March 2010 for a period of up to 9 nights between 20:00hrs and 06:00hrs or until such works are completed.

The one way orders on Avebury Avenue (Holford Street to River Lawn Road), Bradford Street, Riverwalk and New Wharf Road are temporarily suspended during the closure to allow for access as is the No Right Turn into Medway Wharf Road.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via B245 London Road, Dry Hill Park Road, Yardley Park Road, A26 Hadlow Road, A26 Cannon Lane, A26 Woodgate Way, A20104 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

LAKE ROAD AYLESFORD (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 and 124 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will extend the existing double yellow lines outside of the new development site on Lake Road, Aylesford.

A copy of the scheme proposal, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Aylesford Parish Council Offices, 23 Forstal Road, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7AU and at the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B033150o" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 22nd March 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

ASHURST HILL, ASHURST (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ashurst Hill at the railway bridge on or after Sunday 7th March 2010 between the hours of 22:00hrs and 04:00hrs for a period of up to 1 night or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the above restriction is via A264 Ashurst Road, B2110 Groombridge Hill, B2110 Withyham Road, B2026 Edenbridge Road, A264 Ashurst Road and vice versa.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to carry out a bridge inspection for structural and safety reasons. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contact is Emma Osborne of Centurion Traffic Management on 01634 717044.

HIGH WOODS LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Woods Lane between Halls Hole Road and Cleeve Avenue on or after Tuesday 16th March 2010 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

There is no alternative route for the restriction described above.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Tony Carreck on 08458 247 800.

UPPER CUMBERLAND WALK, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by pedestrian traffic on the footpath that runs between Cavendish Drive and Upper Cumberland Walk on or after Monday 15th March 2010 when required for a period of up to 12 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for the route described for pedestrians is via Cavendish Drive, Farmcombe Road, Claremont Road, Mount Sion, Madeira Park, Upper Cumberland Walk.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to lay a cable to provide a connection for Network Rail. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Howard Farmer on 01342 413632.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257
AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WBX17 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD TO CLANRICARDE ROAD AND WBX18 CHURCH ROAD TO WBX17) (NO 1) PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2010

On 24th February 2010 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council confirmed the above order.

The effect of the order is to stop up the public footpaths running from Mount Pleasant Road to Clanricarde Road (WBX17) and from Church Road to path WBX17 (WBX18) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the confirmed order and order map may be seen free of charge at Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday. Copies of the order and map may be obtained there free of charge.

The order comes into force on the date on which Tunbridge Wells Borough Council certify that the terms of Article 2 of the order have been complied with but if any person aggrieved by the order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of the purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 27th February 2010

Town and Country Planning Acts

Town and Country Planning ActsThe Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/00347/FULMJ **Benenden Girls School Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Demolition of Jubilee Building and existing extension on ground floor at north side of Leelands. New science building and courtyard; new terrace over new colonnade and accommodation to north of Leelands (MAJOR) (LB)

10/00367/FUL **Dolphin Cottage The Street, Benenden**
- (Part site) Erection of one detached dwelling and provision of parking and turning areas (CA) (LB)

10/00458/FUL **Med Spa Clinic 8 - 10 Vale Road, Culverden**
- Change of use from A1 retail to D1 clinic for treatment of allergies (CA)

10/00461/HOUSE **Rootes Cottage West Road, Goudhurst**
- Single storey rear extension (CA) (LB)

10/00463/LBC **Rootes Cottage West Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension (LB)

09/03504/HOUSE **Penrhyn Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing ground floor conservatory and construction of two-storey rear extension (CA)

10/00356/FUL **Little Mercers Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing dwelling and construct two pairs semi-detached dwellings comprising 2 x three-bed houses and 2 x two-bed houses with associated parking (LB) (CA)

10/00464/FUL **St Laurence Church The Moor, Hawkhurst**
- Re-roofing of Vestry in terne-coated stainless steel (LB) (CA)

10/00510/CAC **Belvedere Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of boundary wall which adjoins front of property (CA)

10/00515/LBC **Drum & Monkey House Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of two modern windows from kitchen, reinstatement of door in former structural opening, and replacement of one window with new oak window to match existing old windows (LB)

10/00371/LBC **Scotney Castle Hastings Road, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - New external lighting to mansion and to rear of visitor reception (LB)

10/00506/CAC **23 Warwick Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing dwelling (CA)

10/00332/HOUSE 5F **Sandrock Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Summer house (CA)

10/00448/FUL **Bonds Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst**
- Wendy House with associated steps and platform decking, single shed to replace two existing sheds in the same location, and a log store (LB)

10/00475/LBC **6 Bird In Hand Street Groombridge, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations and 2 no. conservation rooflights (works commenced) (LB)

09/03638/FUL **Beulah Lodge Rest Home 1 Beulah Road, St James**
- New parking and turning area to front of property with new access to highway (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 February 2010

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

At its meeting on 18 February 2010, the Council set the following council taxes for the year 2010/11:

Part of the Council's area:	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tonbridge	950.88	1,109.36	1,267.84	1,426.32	1,743.28	2,060.24	2,377.20	2,852.64
Addington	983.03	1,146.87	1,310.71	1,474.55	1,802.23	2,129.91	2,457.58	2,949.10
Aylesford	980.00	1,143.34	1,306.67	1,470.01	1,796.68	2,123.35	2,450.01	2,940.02
Birling	972.60	1,134.71	1,296.81	1,458.91	1,783.11	2,107.32	2,431.51	2,917.82
Borough Green	1,003.36	1,170.59	1,337.82	1,505.05	1,839.51	2,173.97	2,508.41	3,010.10
Burham	975.01	1,137.51	1,300.02	1,462.52	1,787.53	2,112.53	2,437.53	2,925.04
Ditton	1,025.46	1,196.38	1,367.29	1,538.20	1,880.02	2,221.85	2,563.66	3,076.40
East Malling & Larkfield	979.64	1,142.92	1,306.19	1,469.47	1,796.02	2,122.57	2,449.11	2,938.94
East Peckham	987.18	1,151.72	1,316.25	1,480.78	1,809.84	2,138.91	2,467.96	2,961.56
Hadlow	983.18	1,147.04	1,310.91	1,474.77	1,802.50	2,130.23	2,457.95	2,949.54
Hildenborough	960.07	1,120.08	1,280.10	1,440.11	1,760.14	2,080.16	2,400.18	2,880.22
Ightham	981.85	1,145.49	1,309.14	1,472.78	1,800.07	2,127.35	2,454.63	2,945.56
Kings Hill	980.24	1,143.61	1,306.99	1,470.36	1,797.11	2,123.86	2,450.60	2,940.72
Leybourne	992.53	1,157.95	1,323.38	1,488.80	1,819.65	2,150.49	2,481.33	2,977.60
Mereworth	965.02	1,125.85	1,286.69	1,447.53	1,769.21	2,090.88	2,412.55	2,895.06
Offham	978.17	1,141.20	1,304.23	1,467.26	1,793.32	2,119.38	2,445.43	2,934.52
Platt	979.94	1,143.26	1,306.59	1,469.91	1,796.56	2,123.21	2,449.85	2,939.82
Plaxtol	972.64	1,134.74	1,296.85	1,458.96	1,783.18	2,107.39	2,431.60	2,917.92
Ryarsh	984.26	1,148.30	1,312.35	1,476.39	1,804.48	2,132.57	2,460.65	2,952.78
Shipbourne	973.96	1,136.29	1,298.62	1,460.95	1,785.61	2,110.27	2,434.91	2,921.90
Snodland	994.14	1,159.83	1,325.52	1,491.21	1,822.59	2,153.97	2,485.35	2,982.42
Stansted	991.12	1,156.31	1,321.50	1,486.69	1,817.07	2,147.45	2,477.81	2,973.38
Trottiscliffe	975.15	1,137.68	1,300.20	1,462.73	1,787.78	2,112.84	2,437.88	2,925.46
Wateringbury	991.10	1,156.29	1,321.47	1,486.66	1,817.03	2,147.40	2,477.76	2,973.32
West Malling	991.92	1,157.24	1,322.56	1,487.88	1,818.52	2,149.16	2,479.80	2,975.76
West Peckham	960.24	1,120.29	1,280.33	1,440.37	1,760.45	2,080.54	2,400.61	2,880.74
Wouldham	983.01	1,146.85	1,310.68	1,474.52	1,802.19	2,129.87	2,457.53	2,949.04
Wrotham	991.26	1,156.47	1,321.68	1,486.89	1,817.31	2,147.73	2,478.15	2,973.78

S. Shelton CPFA, Director of Finance

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Le Mini star in rival to the Italian Job

FirstDrive

by STEVELOADER

Citroën DS3

NO PRIZES for guessing that Citroën's swanky new DS3 targets the BMW Mini.

And if the daring French marque pulls this one off, it will be a heist worthy of the original Mini's classic caper movie, the Italian Job.

The newcomer cuts a dash like the Mini, can be customised to the roof like one and holds a premium position to attract similar buyers.

But it's no Mini.

Firstly, it is definitely not retro, even if it does revive 'DS' sub-branding that graced a classic 50/60s dynasty of big Citroëns.

And secondly, while the DS3 opens up a posh new niche in the Citroën line-up – more smart DS models are on the way – the car and its customising boutique prices seem pitched carefully (from £11,700) to undercut the Anglo-German cult star (from £12,730), officially without discounts normally expected from Citroën dealers.

At the same time, 'Le Mini' also offers a big cabin, handsome boot and – dare we say it – a more butch image than the real Italian Job and that other great cult car of the moment, the Fiat 500.

The cabin is as much a work of art as the exterior, with a leather and alloy wheel on the mid-range test car worthy of an executive motor.

I think the DS has the style to blow away both its existing rivals: the front gives it 'big car' presence, but the clever part is how the roof appears to have been lifted from the rest of the car by using blacked out pillars.

We borrowed our First Drive car from Wilmoths Citroën in Ashford where sales manager James Tomlin called the trick "a floating roof" – a good description when you see the DS in a bold lower colour partnered with a light roof.

Many people are already bowled over by the car's style; Wilmoths Ashford had three firm orders even as the car made its showroom debut – a pattern reflected across Wilmoths' other Kent dealerships.

Hard-nosed buyers may doubt whether the DS can hold its values as well as the Mini – one of the slowest depreciators on the market. Holding the line on list prices and the array of custom configurations should help the DS3 though; there won't be any 'cheap' poverty-spec examples to 'lower the tone' of used values.

A more serious question is whether the DS delivers the driver enjoyment of the Mini; the loan car was a 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol equivalent to the mid-range Mini Cooper petrol and felt lively enough, but the gearshift and steering feedback was not as taut as its obvious rival.

And while the DS grips and corners well yet delivers a supple ride, you hear a lot from the suspension when working hard – a little more noise, vibration and harshness work would have helped the premium image.

Nevertheless, Le Mini is a fine piece of work – perhaps the French Job will hits our screens soon.

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09 09 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR SILVER 7000 MILES £12495
09 09 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 2000 MILES £9995
09 09 FORD C-MAX 2-0 ZETEC AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 3000 MILES £13995
09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 2000 MILES £10995
09 09 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC SDRAUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 3000 MILES £12995
09 09 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 200 MILES £10995
09 09 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS DENIM BLUE 4000 MILES £9995
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER 3000M £7995
09 09 MECEDES A160 ELEGANCE AUTO PAS MET GOLD 750 MILES £15495
09 09 NEW CORSA 1-2 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR GREEN 6000 MILES £10995
09 09 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES £8495
09 58 NISSAN MICRA ACTIVE LUXURY 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 1700 MILES £8995
08 58 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C DEEP RED 3000 MILES £11995
08 58 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR RED MET 5000 MILES £12495
08 58 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE AUTO PAS BLACK 600 MILES £9995
08 58 GRAND SCENIC 2-0 S DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS GREY 7000 MILES £12995
08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5DR BLACK 4000M £7495
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-4 STYLE CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 5000 MILES £9495
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES £7995
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 2000 MILES £7995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES £8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 1800 MILES £8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES £8995
08 58 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 750 MILES £9495
08 58 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 6000 MILES £9995
08 58 KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET BLUE 8000 MILES £9995

COUPES & CONVERTIBLES

09 09 FORD FOCUS CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS ALLOYS RED 4000 MILES £14995
08 58 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO ALL BLACK LEATHER 2000 MILES £15995
08 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS FLAME 6000 MILES £13495
07 57 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS BLUE MET 5000 MILES £10995
07 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES £13495
06 56 MICRA 1-6 SPORT CONVERT AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES £9995
06 56 MICRA 1-6 ESSENSA CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 18000 MILES £9995
06 56 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS GREY 16000 MILES £10995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES £10495
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES £9995
06 56 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 14000 MILES £10995
06 06 MICRA 1-6 ESSENSA CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 28000 MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES £10495
05 05 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 38000 MILES £8495

BMW

05 55 BMW 320 DIESEL ES 6 SPEED MANUAL ESTATE 5000 MILES ONLY £13995

FIAT

06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000 MILES £5995

FUSION & FIESTA

09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 4000 MILES £10995
07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 19000 MILES £7995
07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1000 MILES £8995
07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 MILES £8495
06 56 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 3000 MILES £7495
06 56 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 13000 MILES £6995
06 56 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 1000 MILES £7495
05 55 FUSION 3 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 3000 MILES £6995

FORD FOCUS HATCHES & 4 DOORS

08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 4000 MILES £11495
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C KELP 4000 MILES £9995
08 57 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 7000 MILES £10495
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS GREEN 5000 MILES £8995
07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 MILES £8995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR TONIC BLUE 3000 MILES £7995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES £7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS SILVER 21000 MILES £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE TONIC 16000 MLS £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX HATCH AUTO PAS AIR/C STRATOS SILVER 34000 MILES £5995
05 55 FORD FOCUS GHIA 2-0 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 27000 MILES £6995
04 54 FORD FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC AUTO PAS 3DR SILVER 18000 MILES £4995
03 03 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO 4 DOOR PAS AIR/C PEPPER RED 48000 MILES £4995
03 03 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO 5 DOOR PAS AIR/C BLACK LEATHER 58000 MILES £4995

FORD FOCUS ESTATES

07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE ESTATE AUTO AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 1900 MILES £8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 MILES £8995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE 23000 MILES £8995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO ESTATE PAS AIR/C TONIC BLUE 18000 MILES £8495
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO 21000 MILES £6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000 MLS £7495

MONDEO

06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES £9495
06 56 MONDEO 2-0 LX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 24000 MILES £8495

CORSA

08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES £8995
08 08 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ICE BLUE 1300 MILES £8995
07 57NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES £9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ULTRA BLUE 15000 MILES £7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 2000 MILES £8995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES £7995
06 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MAUVE 19000 MILES £7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE 5DR AIR/C AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES £6495
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 MILES £6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000 MILES £6995
04 53 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 14000 MILES £4995
03 53 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 14000 MILES £4995
02 52 CORSA 1-0 ECO 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER £35 RTAX 39000 MILES £3695

DAIHATSU

08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE ICE 8000 MILES £7995
06 56 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 16000 MILES £5995
06 06 DAIHATSU CHARADE 1-0 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 12000 MILES £4995

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08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £9995
08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £9995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 MILES £8495

MAZDA

07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 8000 MILES £10995
07 56 MAZDA 2 1-4S AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 17000 MILES £5995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 16000 MILES £9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 9000 MILES £9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 21000 MILES £9495

SUZUKI

07 57 GRAND VITARA 2-0 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £11995
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 MILES £5995
05 55 SUZUKI SWIFT 1-3 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 16000 MILES £7495
05 55 SUZUKI LIANNA 1-6 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 51000 MILES £4995

KIA

06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CON 21000 MILES £5995
06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CON 10000 MILES £5995

HONDA

06 56 HONDA CRV SE AUTO PAS SILVER GREY AIR 10000 MILES £11995
04 54 HONDA ACCORD 2-0 EXECUTIVE AUTO ESTATE 26000 MILES £7995

HYUNDAI

08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES £6995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 MILES £6495
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES £5995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES £5995
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER GREEN 7000 MILES £5995
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER GREEN 16000 MILES £5995
06 56 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 9000 MILES £5495
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 7000 MILES £5495

TOYOTA

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 MILES £9495
07 57 YARIS 1-3 ZINC 3DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLACK UNDER 800 MILES £8995
06 06 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS SILVER 6000 MILES £8495
04 04 COROLLA 1-6 T SPIRIT 3 5DR AUTO AIR/C MET SILVER 24000 MILES £6995
02 02 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS SILVER 22000 MILES £5995

NISSAN

08 08 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 9000 MILES £9495
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08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 10000 MILES £8495
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04 04 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE 12000 MILES £5495
04 53 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 3DR AUTO PAS ARUBA BLUE 11000 MILES £5495
03 53 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 3DR AUTO PAS BLUE 2000 MILES £5295
03 53 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE AIR/C 51000 MILES £3995

SKODA

08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES £9495

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03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES £2995

CHEVROLET

09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER 900 MILES £7995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1000 MILES £7995
08 08 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR BLACK 6000 MILES £6995
08 08 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS POLY SILVER 10000 MILES £6495
07 57 KALOS 1-4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 1400 MILES £5995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER 10000 MILES £4995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 12000 MILES £4995
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER 17000 MILES £5995
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER 15000 MILES £5995
06 56 KALOS 1-4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 36000 MILES £4995
06 06 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 8000 MILES £5495
03 53 DAEWOO KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS POLY SILVER 46000 MILES £3995

VOLKSWAGEN

08 58 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 5DR 6 SPD AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £9995
08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 5DR 6 SPD AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 8000 MILES £9495
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 20000 MILES £7995
06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 MILES £7995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES £9995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 SE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 10000 MILES £10995
05 05 VW POLO 1-4 TWIST 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 30000 MILES £6995

ASTRA HATCHES

08 08 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS HATCH ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES £8995
08 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 20000 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR TURQUOISE UNDER 300 MILES £8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR PEACOCK BLUE 15000 MILES £6995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR METRO BLUE 14000 MILES £6995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 6000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 40000 MILES £7495
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES £6495
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES £7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR HATCH PAS ULTRA BLUE 7000 MILES £6995
06 06 ASTRA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR POMMEGRANITE 12000 MILES £5995

ASTRA ESTATES

08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE BLUE 12000 MILES £8995
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES £8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES £8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES £7495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR METRO BLUE 11000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 11000 MILES £7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 13000 MILES £7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO AIR 5DR ESTATE ULTRA BLUE 13000M £7495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES £6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES £6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR BLACK 12000 MILES £6495

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08 08 ZAFIRA 19 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET 8000 MILES £12995
08 08 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 7000 MILES £8995
08 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS STAR SILVER 7 SEATER 15000 MILES £9495
06 56 ZAFIRA 2-2 LIFE AUTO PAS PANNACOTTA 7 SEATER 8000 MILES £8995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 3000 MILES £7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 5000 MILES £7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 4000 MILES £7995

RENAULT SCENIC'S

08 08 GRAND SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES £11995
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08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 10000 MILES £10995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 8000 MILES £10995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GOLD 16000 MILES £8995
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07 07 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C GOLD 9000 MILES £8995
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07 07 GRAND SCENIC 1-9 DIESEL DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO BLUE 2000 MILES £10995
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06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER 16000 MILES £7995
06 56 GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO 5DR BLUE 7 SEATS 8000 MILES £8995
06 56 SCENIC EXPRESSION 16 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 17000 MILES £7495
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06 56 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 2-0 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 28000 MILES £8495
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06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C RED MET 14000 MILES £7495
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 16000 MILES £7495

RENAULT

08 08 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 2000 MILES £8995
07 57 RENAULT MODUS INITIALE 1-6 AUTO PAS LEATHER 9000 MILES £8995
07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 16000 MILES £7995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET RED 17000 MILES £6995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER AIR/C 16000 MILES £7995
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06 56 LAGUNA EXPRESSION ESTATE 1-6 AUTO PAS MET GREY 8000 MILES £7995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIQUE1-6 AUTO PAS ESTATE GOLD 17000 MILES £5995
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05 05 MODUS 1-6 PRIVILEDGE AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY 39000 MILES £5995
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06 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLACK 25000 MILES £9995
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03 53 A140 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/C 5DR 7000 MILES £6495
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02 52 A140 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/C 25000 MILES £5995
01 51 A140 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS BLUE 44000 MILES £4995
01 Y C240 ELEGANCE AUTO PAS SILVER AIR LEATHER ALLOYS 70000M £6995

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08 57 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT AUTO PAS 5DR AIR MISTY GREY 23000 MILES £8995
07 57 PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C STORM GREY 2000 MILES £8495
07 57 PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS DIABLO RED 17000 MILES £7995
07 57 PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLACK 16000 MILES £7995
06 56 PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS MAROON 11000 MILES £7495
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06 56 PEUGEOT 307 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLUE MET 14000 MILES £7495
06 06 307 SW ESTATE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIRC GREY MET 13000 MILES £7995
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), C02 Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

Finance subject to status. Terms & conditions apply. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models when ordered or registered between 05.02.10 and 31.03.10. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax (or that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction with the Government Scrappage Scheme, or with any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. Offers available to private customers, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only), on selected Retailer stocks at participating Retailers only.

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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES: Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (Litres per 100km/mpg) & CO2 Emissions (g/km);
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THE ROAD AHEAD

Compiled by STEVE LOADER

Polo Scrooge's penny-pinching account

ORDER books are open for VW's most miserly BlueMotion model yet – the new Polo version should average 80mpg.

Priced at £14,445 for the three-door and £15,045 for the five-door model, the car uses a 74bhp 1.2-litre TDI three-cylinder diesel plus longer-geared five-speed manual gearbox.

The car also saves fuel and emissions by recovering energy via regenerative braking and an automatic start/stop system – the car is road tax exempt due to CO2 emissions of just 91g/km of CO2 – yet can hit 62mph in 13.9 seconds.

It comes with aerodynamic bumpers, side skirts and an extended roof spoiler and alloys with low-rolling resistance tyres.

Face up to Hyundai's new look with ix35

KOREAN marque Hyundai replaces its Tucson compact SUV (sports utlity vehicle) next month with a far more dynamic contender.

The new ix35 also marks the debut of a new classification badge system for Hyundai SUVs/4x4s, plus a new design trend and hexagonal corporate grille.

The sleeker styling is also said to boost the aerodynamics and complement a new refined powertrain offering better fuel efficiency and lower CO2 emissions.

Hyundai's marketing stance also has a familiar ring: it wants the ix35 to tempt mainstream hatchback and MPV buyers – as Nissan and Peugeot have with respective Qashqai and 3008 'crossovers' – as well as SUV fans

Expect ix35 prices to start around £14,000 – backed by the usual Hyundai five-year warranty.

Skoda winds up the Audi set both inside and out

CLEARLY no favours are sought or given at the Volkswagen group.

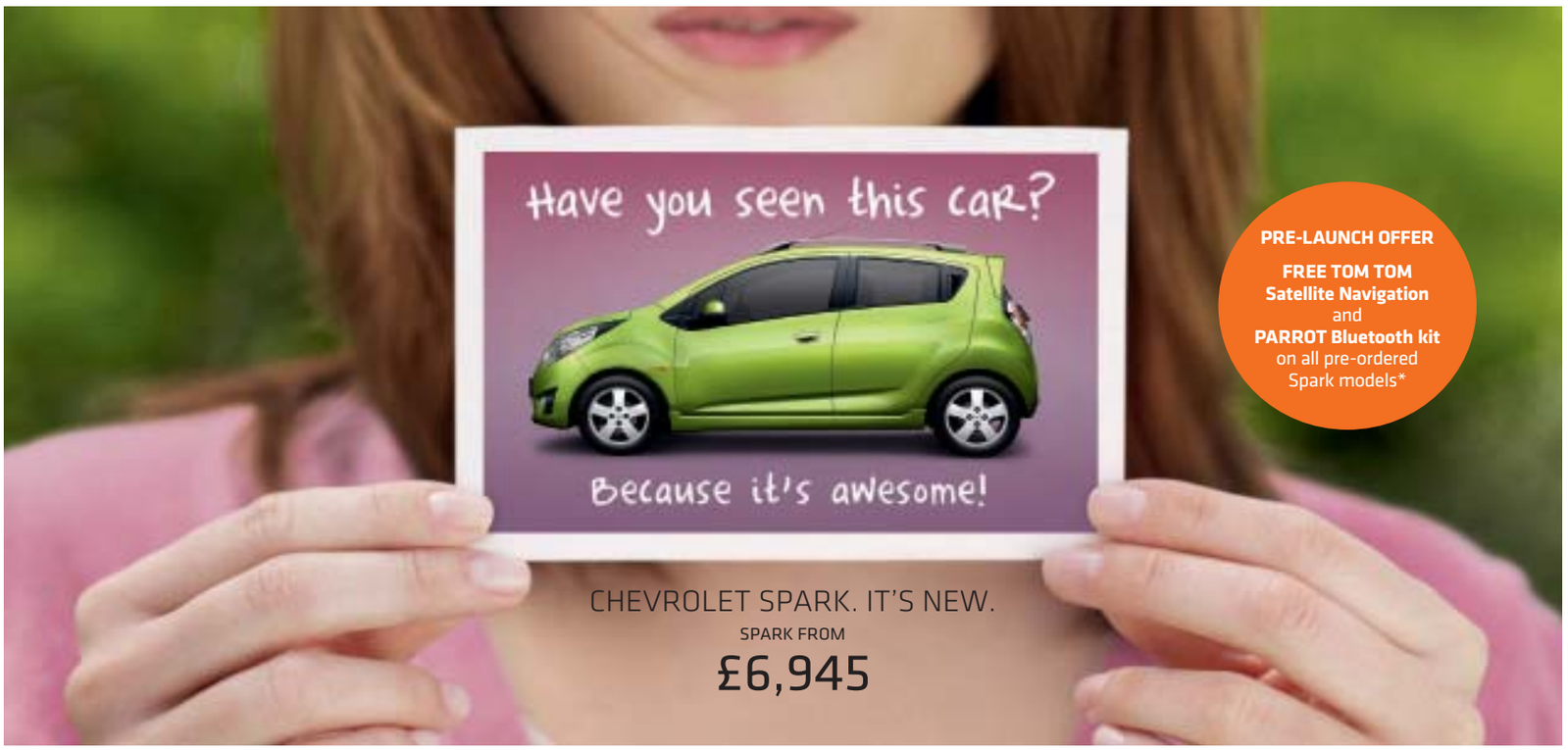
You only have to look at how VW bargain brand Skoda's Superb Estate, launched this week, stacks up impressively against VW posh brand Audi's A6 Avant.

The Czech car starts at £17,715 with generous standard kit and the German exec model starts at ten grand more with a fairly ordinary spec; with the recession refusing to lie down and die, some punters and companies will surely junk the idea of a snob badge and opt for the Skoda.

On top of keen pricing, it also brings class-leading legroom and boot space and a choice of three petrol and three diesel engines.

The entry powertrain is the turbocharged 125bhp 1.4 TSI petrol engine, which might be too pathetic for a car likely to be well-laden at times, but there is also a cut-price Audi A6 Avant Quattro option in the 260bhp 3.6-litre V6 4x4 estate (£29,075) with the VW group's classy DSG 'box – the auto that can be driven as a manual.

Most buyers though will surely check out the diesels (from £18,185) also including a 4x4 version (from £23,770).



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Price of £6,945 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.
Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

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Model shown is the Ibiza 5dr 1.4 Sport with optional metallic paint (£380 RRP). Offer applies to Ibiza 5dr 1.4 Sport only sold and registered between 1st January 2010 and 31st March 2010. Retail Sales only. The typical 0% APR offer is not available in conjunction with the Government Scrappage scheme or the SEAT customer loyalty offer. Subject to vehicle availability. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s only from participating dealers. SEAT Finance, Freepost SEAT Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Prices quoted and example shown is correct at time of going to print and reflects 17.5% VAT.

Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Ibiza 5dr range in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 33.6 (8.4) - 57.6 (4.9); extra-urban 56.5 (5.0) - 94.2 (3.0); combined 44.8 (6.3) - 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions 98 - 149 g/km.

Official Government Environmental Test Data. Saab Range. Fuel consumption mpg (litres/100km): Urban 18.3–40.9 (15.4–6.9), Extra-urban 35.7–67.3 (7.9–4.2), Combined 26.6–54.3 (10.6–5.2). CO_2 emissions 251–137g/km.

*Model shown and £6,595 saving is 9-3 Convertible Linear SE 1.8t Man. Rec. OTR price £26,590, offer price £19,995. On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offer valid for registrations and orders between 01.01.10 and 31.03.10. Price shown is available on selected dealer stocks only, at participating dealers subject to availability. Available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion except "Win back the price of your car" competition and Scrappage Allowance. Scrappage Allowance dependent on meeting full Government Scrappage incentive criteria whilst funding applies. The Saab Independence Event is from 26.02.10 to 01.03.10 inclusive, please contact your local Saab dealer for specific opening times and stock availability. When you buy a qualifying Saab during this event you have the chance to win the cost of your car back in our easy to enter competition. Please ask your dealer for full terms and conditions and an entry form.

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08 58	9-3 Aero 2.0 HOT SportWagon AUTO	Fusion Blue, 4955 miles	£16,695.00
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08 08	9-3 Aero 2.0 HOT 4 door saloon AUTO	Fusion Blue, 15008 miles	£13,995.00
08 08	9-3 Aero 2.0 HOT 4 door saloon AUTO	Ice Blue, 18961 miles	£13,995.00
08 58	9-3 Vector Sport 2.0t AUTO 4 door saloon	Titan Grey, 15289 miles	£13,695.00
08 58	9-3 Vector Sport 1.8t 4 door saloon	Ice Blue, 17" Alloys, Heated Front Seats, 8332 miles	£14,995.00
08 08	9-3 Aero 2.0 HOT 4 door saloon AUTO	Titan Grey, 12949 miles	£14,495.00
08 58	9-3 Vector Sport 2.0t BIO POWER 4 door saloon	Elec Front Seats, Bi-Xenon Cornering Headlamps, Bose DVD Sat Nav, Prestige Pack, Laser Red, 7791 miles	£16,995.00
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Think small, think light in the cheap 4x4 fight

OUR first big fall of snow this year caused chaos.

It always does. Kent just does not see white stuff often enough, as highlighted by how stupidly people drive in it and how some, in search of reassurance, rush to buy a 4x4.

We responded with a feature on the best and cheapest secondhand off-road leviathans, like old Land Rovers, Jeeps, Shoguns and Land Cruisers.

These monsters are good, but guzzle fuel, may cost you in maintenance, and are big cars to keep around just for a snowy day.

Roomy

The alternative is to think small and light and you don't need to think long, because there are just three mini 4x4 contenders: the Fiat Panda 4x4 (from £11,000) – roomy and capable but not a true off-roader – the Daihatsu Terios (from £12,997), and the Suzuki Jimny (from £10,715).

I like the Terios; it's a five-door and capable off-road, as JC (Clarkson not Christ) showed on TV's Top Gear when he set off cross-country to elude a pack of hounds, but it is the most expensive in the sector by a long way.

When it comes to bangs for off-roading bucks though, the Jimny is the obvious choice.

Suzuki has made 'light Jeeps' since 1970 and there is not much difference between the current car and those early models.

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

SuzukiJimny

I saw lots while living in Cornwall, testament to their ruggedness and affordability – they know the value of a penny in that county.

The Jimny's strength and weakness lies in its 'proper 4x4' construction – a rigid chassis with body bolted on top and short overhangs. Along with long travel suspension and a light 'footprint', this gives the Jimny excellent off-road ability.

But this arrangement on a short wheelbase makes the Suzuki an acquired taste on-road. The suspension nowadays seems better than I remember and soaks up big bumps well, as you might expect, but it is fidgety – don't buy a Jimny just for posing.

The cabin is also pretty cramped; those in front get a decent deal and the high driving position is superb for such a compact car, but the rear seats are really only suitable for kids, and the boot is nearly half that of the Panda 4x4 and less than a third of the Terios.

There is also no choice on engine and though the little 85bhp 1,328cc petrol engine and low gearing delivers good off-road ability, the Jimny is one of the slowest cars you can buy.

However, the gears and steering are crisp so

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Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 38.2 (7.4) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 28.0 (10.1) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 – 235

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website: www.kentskoda.co.uk
01634 377 444
email: sherlodgew@btconnect.com
Motability

you can enjoy piloting this little workhorse around with an average economy around 40mpg and it will cruise happily – just – at 70mph, though the cabin is noisy.

Fixtures and fittings are as durable and functional as you might expect on this type of car, though the indicator stalk is mounted on the right – most of us are now used to a Continental-style mounting on the left.

Buy it for the right reasons though and the Suzuki is unbeatable and indestructible. Most of the time you can run in economical two-wheel drive, via the rear axle, but in the tricky conditions of our more recent dump of snow, I was able to hit the '4WD' and even the low ratio '4WDL' button for extra purchase.

It was particularly pleasing to cruise past a melee of cars and the inevitable white van stuck on a hill near my home.

However, while full 4x4 can be engaged when driving straight at up to 60mph, it must not be used on dry or simply wet road surfaces – it is only for extreme or off-road situations.

DrivingPortfolio

SUZUKI JIMNY SZ4 £11,225

Driving appeal	★
Image	★★★
Space	★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£175/year
Best rival	Daihatsu Terios

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: surprise, surprise - the fairly crude ride and handling

NOT SURE: Suzuki should tinker too much with the car because I...

REALLY LIKE: how the Suzuki delivers exactly 'what it says on the tin' at the right price.

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2004 SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear , 4 Doors, Manual, Diesel, 50,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey, ABS, Air conditioning, Alarm, Alloy wheels, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Full Service History, Park distance control, Traction control ..... **£7,395** SOLD

2005 05 SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport , 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance control **£7,195**

2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 73,000 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass. **£5,495**

2001 Y SAAB 9-3 2.2 TiD SE , 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 122,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Central locking, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Foglights, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Full Service History, Alarm, Climate Control, Cloth upholstery, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Child locks, Service indicator. Insurance Group: 12 ..... **£3,195**

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10

New registration special feature

www.carsforkent.co.uk

The new '10-Plate makes economic sense

MARKET LEADER: Vauxhall Insignia VXR's power and all-wheel drive make this a worthy performance flagship for the 2009 Car of the Year line-up

COMMENT

By **STEVE LOADER**

BRITAIN has limped out of recession, so the brakes should be easing off now for buying a new '10 registration plate

Assailed by falling demand and over-capacity, carmakers and dealers have been desperate to move metal with discounts, leases and finance packages to tempt even the gloomiest recession watcher.

RIVAL: Mazda3 is now posing a serious threat to the everyday Ford Focus

Those lucky enough to have savings may also check the paltry interest earned and think it's a good time to use that capital to help the motoring budget, either by down-sizing or buying a more economical and eco-friendly/low road tax model – sales of city cars and superminis are booming.

And the two grand windfall under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme might be ending, but many carmakers are replacing it with similar offers rather than bothering with inflated list prices that most people haggle down anyway.

The appeal of buying new has been enhanced by narrowing options on the used market, where prices have become ridiculous at a time when hard cash is tight.

Year-old examples such as ex-fleeters and dealer demonstrators shot up 25 per cent in value last year, while the three-year/average mileage examples that are dealers' mainstay stock are in short supply as dealer forecourts and private buyers drive up prices at auction.

The rise in used values has been caused by consumers and fleets backing off buying new cars at the first sign of the recession, which knocked on to choke used supplies further down the line.

With the '10 Plate upon us, surely some used-car buyers will see the sense in buying a new motor and cheering them-selves up too?

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Vauxhall eco Astra is quick to market

VAUXHALL did not waste any time bringing its most miserly version of the all-new sixth generation Astra to market.

Just weeks after the classy five-door hatch arrived in showrooms (from £15,736) proudly wearing a 'made in Britain' label, the ecoFLEX version can be ordered, priced from £17,920.

For the company car driver though, the figures that matter are a 12.1 per cent improvement in emissions over the conventional 1.7-litre diesel model, road tax at £35 and 13 per cent less benefit in kind taxation.

Like Vauxhall's other environment and pocket-friendly ecoFLEX versions of popular models, the Astra 'greenie' uses a combination of re-mapped powertrain and improved aerodynamics, without major changes to the positive driving experience.

The new Astra narrowly missed out on the current European Car of the Year title, a win that would have followed up on an outright victory for Vauxhall's big and stylish Insignia saloon/hatchback/estate range (from £18,070) – last year's replacement for the long-running Vectra company car contender.

The UK arm of General Motors is also playing to design strengths elsewhere, with the Corsa three/five-door hatchback (from £10,507) one of Britain's top-three favourite cars, while the cleverly-packaged seven-seats-as-standard Zafira continues to lead the midi-MPV sector.

Vauxhall also offers the Meriva mini-MPV – officially priced from £13,738 though replacement later this year suggests there will be keen deals around – and the clever Agila supermini-MPV (from £8,473).

The griffin-badge brand also has a stylish contender in the 4x4/SUV sector, the Antara – deceptively luxurious and priced from £21,956.

Toyota aims to take the pain out of insurance

TIRED of talking dogs, comic admirals, and Iggy Pop's lived-in face?

Toyota is taking the pain out of car insurance by offering one year's insurance free to over-21s who order and register a new Aygo city car (pictured) by March 31 this year – this on top of a '£500 off' deal.

The offer applies to all Aygo three and five-doors (from £8,250), including the £8,995 three-door Aygo Platinum, which comes with 14-inch spoked alloys, metallic paint, six-speaker sound system and Alcantara/leather upholstery – and that free insurance.

The world's No1 motor brand can also offer 3.9 per cent typical APR finance.

Those who want an even smaller car should check out the clever IQ city car (from £9,995) which can seat three adults and a child – just about.

Toyota has also transformed its engines using 'Optimal Drive' technology, which delivers more power yet offers better economy and lower emissions.

In the supermini class it offers the popular Yaris from around £10,000, while the bigger Auris (from £14,500) contests the family hatchback sector.

Families needing more room should look at the sharply-styled Avensis saloon/estate range (from £16,800), while the seven-seat Verso (£16,720) is reckoned one of the best 5-7-seat MPVs available.

The brand also has a 4x4/SUV (sports utility vehicle) to suit everyone, from the two or four-wheel drive Urban Cruiser (from £14,800) to the ever-popular RAV4 (from £20,000) to the awesome go anywhere Land Cruisers (from £30,400).

Toyota also sells the world's best known hyrbrid eco car, the Prius (from £19,500).

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If it looks too good to be true it normally is, but thankfully Mazda have found an exception to this rule in the form of the new Mazda3 Tamura. With clever design modifications including aerodynamic bumpers, side skirts and a rear spoiler, front fog lights and 17" alloy wheels, it really is more Mazda for your money.

All for just £14,995 OTR. Yes, you read it right.

To book your test drive* now, call us on **01322 521595.**

Model: New Mazda3 1.6 5dr Tamura	Finance: Mazda Conditional Sale	On The Road Price £14,995	Customer Deposit° (minimum 50% deposit) £7,507	Amount of Credit £7,488
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda3 range: Urban 21.4 (13.2) – 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 37.7 (7.5) – 74.3 (3.8), Combined 29.4 (9.6) – 62.8 (4.5). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 224 – 119.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating Mazda dealers for new vehicles contracted and registered between 1 January 2010 and 31 March 2010. ^0% finance available on Mazda3 Tamura with minimum 50% deposit required°. A lower deposit will increase the amount of re-payments. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Service RH1 1SR. Model shown: Mazda3 Tamura. OTR price £14,995. On the road price includes 17.5% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. *Test drives subject to applicant status and availability.

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Mercedes-Benz

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Big savings to be made using LPG, says Proton

PROTON claims more British motorists are opting out of the volatile petrol car market and into LPG (liquid petroleum gas).

The Malaysian brand is the only manufacturer on the UK market to offer an LPG-ready car at no extra conversion cost to the motorist – normally about £1,500 – and has been rewarded by rising sales; GEN-2 ecoLogic (pictured) buyers increased by as much as 375 per cent in one month during 2009.

Proton says this reflects growing dissatisfaction among motorists towards the over-inflated price of petrol, especially as LPG costs motorists just under half the price and burns more cleanly with lower emissions.

For the average motorist driving 12,000 miles a year, it can save around £670 – that's on top of an attractive £9,995 start price for the 1.6-litre five or four-door GEN-2 whether in conventional petrol or petrol/LPG ecoLogic format.

Simon Park, sales director at Proton UK, said: "LPG gives motorists the best of both worlds. It has been proved to be more eco-friendly than petrol and diesel and it also costs almost half the price to run."

For those questioning the convenience of LPG, it's becoming increasingly easy to fill up, with over 1,400 refuelling sites around the UK, including motorway service stations and at major supermarkets.

Conventional GEN-2 prices start even lower at £8,995, if fitted with the 1.3-litre engine.

The marque also produces the bargain price five-door Savvy supermini (£7,995) and there is a sporty three-door hatchback, the Satria Neo (from £9,995) with well-tuned handling.

Consistent award-winning Volkswagen hatchbacks

VOLKSWAGEN has landed a string of awards for its current generation Polo and Golf hatchbacks, both demonstrating above-average levels of refinement for their classes.

The new three/five-door Polo supermini (from £9,910) gained particular recognition after winning the current European Car of the Year award, while both VWs won their respective categories in the latest What Car? magazine awards – the UK's 'motoring Oscars'.

The market had a taste of why the Polo (pictured) has been so well-received, when the German car giant preceded it with the latest generation Golf, which carried over all the driver-pleasing features of its predecessor while also setting a new benchmark for cabin quality and refinement in the family hatchback sector.

The three/five-door Golf (from £14,850) has also made significant inroads into the company car sector, now helped by an eco-friendly BlueMotion model (from £18,100) with a road tax-exempt 99g/km CO2 figure.

For those of an economical mind, VW also produces the three-door Fox model from £7,460 and has introduced low-emission, small-capacity turbocharged petrol engines for several model line-ups, but VW is not all about counting the pennies; as ever, the Golf has a legendary GTI version (from £24,175) and then there is the reborn Scirocco (from £18,860) – one of the most stylish yet affordable coupes available.

The marque has also created a classy folding hardtop coupe, the Eos (from £20,320) and offers two rugged 4x4/SUV contenders in the Tiguan (from £20,125) and Touareg flagship (from £31,290), as well as the limo-class Phaeton (from £45,565).

Our latest '10 plate offers. (Opportunity on a plate.)

Fox from £7,460.

Fox 1.2 55 PS 3-year, 10,000 miles per annum Solutions example.

34 monthly payments of	£99.00	Amount of credit	£5,392.29
Deposit	£2,067.71	Total amount payable	£8,413.71
Acceptance fee*	£125.00	Option to purchase fee†	£60.00
Optional final payment	£2,795.00	Excess mileage (per mile)	4.23p
Retail cash price	£7,460.00		7.9% APR

New Polo from £9,910.

Polo S 1.2 60 PS 3-door, 3-year, 10,000 miles per annum Solutions example.

34 monthly payments of	£109.00	Amount of credit	£7,019.00
Deposit	£2,891.00	Total amount payable	£11,241.00
Acceptance fee*	£125.00	Option to purchase fee†	£60.00
Optional final payment	£4,459.00	Excess mileage (per mile)	4.23p
Retail cash price	£9,910.00		7.9% APR

Golf S from £14,850.

Golf S 1.4 80 PS 3-door, 3-year, 10,000 miles per annum Solutions example.

35 monthly payments of	£189.00	Amount of credit	£10,666.00
Deposit	£4,184.00	Total amount payable	£16,759.00
Acceptance fee**	£125.00	Option to purchase fee†	£60.00
Optional final payment	£5,900.00	Excess mileage (per mile)	5.64p
Retail cash price	£14,850.00		7.9% APR

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Volkswagen range: urban 60.1 (4.7) – 13.3 (21.2); extra urban 83.1 (3.4) – 26.9 (10.5); combined 74.3 (3.8) – 19.5 (14.5).

CO_2 emissions 99 – 348g/km.

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Examples based on a maximum 30% deposit balance payable over 42 months and 10,000 miles per annum. Final rental and admin fees apply Typical 7.9% APR Finance subject to status. Indemnities may be required. Available to over 18's

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Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. †Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme.

Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 38.2 (7.4) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 28.0 (10.1) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 – 235

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26 Hoath Lane, Wigmore Gillingham, Kent ME8 0SW

website: www.kentskoda.co.uk

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Motability

Seat sales race ahead

SEAT is looking forward optimistically in 2010 after an exceptional sales performance over the past 12 months.

Official figures for 2009 confirm that the sporty Spanish brand logged its best-ever market share in the UK with 1.5 per cent – December's share of 1.64 per cent came within a whisker of the marque's all-time market high for the month (1.65 per cent in 2003) despite the recession.

Seat's sporty, stylish and engaging model line-up – ranging from the Ibiza supermini (Cupra pictured) through sporty Leon hatch and practical Altea and Altea XL, to capacious seven-seat Alhambra and luxurious Exeo saloon and ST – will be joined by new Ibiza ST and ultra-quick Leon Cupra R performance flagships.

Seat's biggest sellers in 2009 were the Ibiza sisters, the more practical five-door (from £10,260) and rakish three-door SportCoupe (from £9,470).

The five-door Leon (from £13,970), with its coupe lines aided by the visual trick of recessing the rear door handles into the door frames, gave able support, while the Altea (from £14,170) and Altea XL (from £15,390) sporting MPVs offered an almost unique pitch for that sector of the car market.

But Seat also opened up a new executive sales line in the form of the well-equipped Exeo saloon (from £18,775) and ST estate.

Aside from this and well-established sporting credentials, Seat has also championed the shift to greener motoring with a line-up of environmentally responsible Ecomotive models led by the road tax exempt low-emission (99g/km CO2) Ibiza Ecomotive (from £12,790).

Citroën steps out from the shadows

FOR so long in the shadow of brand partner Peugeot, Citroën has re-discovered the innovation and style promoted by founder André Citroën.

Both are highlighted by its current range of superminis and highly-successful Picasso MPV sub-brand, but the French marque will also soon embark on a new venture with the launch of the DS3 – first of a premium car collection.

The DS3 is an undisguised tilt at the BMW Mini and Fiat 500, two cult cars made more popular by generous customising options.

For now, Citroën has big news in the form of the newly-launched five-door C3 (from £10,790) supermini (pictured), with the first panoramic windscreen widely available on a small car and a more upmarket cabin than its predecessor.

This car slots in above the bargain basement C1 city car – available with three and five doors – priced from £8,495.

The brand also has impressive contenders in the hard-fought family hatchback and family/company car sectors in the form of the three-door coupe/five-door C4 (from £14,395) and the 'Teutonic' C5 saloon/estate (from £18,995) designed particularly to attack and undercut German rivals.

Citroën also has a distinctive luxury flagship, the C6 (from £34,795) though even this cannot distract from the brand's diverse MPV range.

The sharply styled Picassos – five and seven-seat C4 versions (from £17,205) and the SUV-lookalike C3 (from £12,445) – dominate attention, but Citroën has also enjoyed success with the budget Nemo and Berlingo Multispace models, derived from vans, though these in turn use car platforms for better ride and handling.

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.
Government Scrappage scheme applies to vehicles first registered on or before 28th February 2000. Subject to final terms and conditions of the Government Scrappage Scheme. Number of cars that qualify in total Government Scheme not Renault UK only. Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT,12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. These offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered by 31st March 2010 and are available to retail customers only. These offers are correct at time of going to press and available at participating dealers only. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £395). Examples above exclude cost of metallic paint.

Happy 20th birthday to Mazda's iconic soft-top

MAZDA is celebrating two decades of global success with a 20th Anniversary Limited Edition Mazda MX-5.

Just 2,000 will be sold across the UK and Europe, each wearing a special edition scuff plate in stainless steel with a unique serial number (from 1 to 2000).

Based on the 1.8-litre SE soft-top roadster, this version has a special exterior styling package with chrome grille, door handles and headlight fascia along with silvered fog lamp surrounds and unique 17-inch alloys.

Prices for this desirable version of the third-generation 'MX' are to be announced, but the current range starts at £16,795 for the classic soft-top model and £18,795 for the ingenious folding hardtop roadster coupe version.

The 'Zoom Zoom' Japanese brand has also unveiled an all-new version of its sporty Mazda5 MPV (currently from £17,150) known for its sliding rear doors, and now including a new direct-injection, low-emission 2.0-litre petrol engine with start/stop feature.

The hatchback or estate Mazda6 family/company car star (currently from £16,115) has had a facelift, but the brand is also enjoying big success with its sharply styled three and five-door Mazda2 (from £9,550) supermini and the recently-launched Mazda3 (from £13,930) – a distinctive and stylish alternative to the ubiquitous Ford Focus that includes the stunning MPS hot-hatch version.

Mazda has worked hard to marry lighter design with more economical low-emission petrol and diesel engines, while staying true to its driver-pleasing Zoom Zoom spirit exemplified by the evergreen MX-5 and the innovative RX-8 (£24,995) rotary-engine four-door coupe.

Patriot highlights Jeep's 4x4 value

JEEP was the original proper 4x4 brand but has also become one of the most affordable, thanks largely to its Patriot entry model (pictured).

And its economy champion has also just been upgraded for 2010, yet it is still keenly priced from £13,995.

While it retains the American brand's legendary off-road performance, the Patriot is also versatile and comfortable enough to be a serious alternative to conventional family hatchbacks or MPVs.

Standard Patriot features include electric windows, air con and alloys and the 2.0 CRD diesel models (from £16,495) are capable of averaging more than 40mpg.

Mid-range Jeep Patriot Sport+trim (from £14,995) brings even more kit: front fog lamps, cruise control, deep-tint sunscreen glass, leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls, and Bluetooth phone connectivity and voice command.

The Patriot comes with an all-wheel drive system – Freedom Drive – that provides real world capability and confidence in all-weather conditions, but runs normally in front-wheel drive for best economy, engaging four-wheel drive only when it detects that this is needed.

Jeep also has all the other 4x4 bases covered and still at prices that undercut most serious off-road rivals.

Its roughest and toughest customer is the classic go anywhere Wrangler (from £19,600) but this is strictly for enthusiasts.

The more occasional off-roader or rural family will be better off with five-door models like the Cherokee (from £24,995) and Range Rover rivalling Grand Cherokee (from £27,000) while ultimate capacity is delivered by the aptly-named seven-seat Commander (from £31,800).

Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): The All New Astra Range: urban – from 28.8 (9.9) to 49.6 (5.7), Extra-urban – from 50.4 (5.6) to 68.9 (4.1), Combined – from 39.8 (7.1) to 60.1 (4.7). CO_2 Emissions from 167 to 124g/km.

MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF 50% REQUIRED ON EXCLUSIV MODELS AND 30% ON ALL OTHER MODELS. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Offer available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks and apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 04.12.09 and 31.03.10, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Vaux87221)

Pros and cons of road tax savings

DON'T swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax, ***writes Steve Loader.***

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling eased the pressure a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars... just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government won't be any different due to existing agreements to clean up pollution – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

At present, you can escape paying anything if your car emits 100g/km or less and, from April 1, this benefit will apply to any car with a 130g/km or less rating, within one year of being registered. After that it will revert to £20-30 a year.

By the same token, anyone buying a serious CO2 emitter discharging 255g/km or more will be clobbered by a £950 charge in the first year and £435 thereafter when the new scale comes into effect – the current tax for cars in this band is £405.

Curiously, due to inconsistent emissions data on older cars, these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles. The higher charge increases to £205 after April 1.

BETTER DEAL: Dramatic changes in road tax over the past few years are driving sales of superminis like the Skoda Fabia

Road tax bands

Band A (0-100g/km of CO2) - £0
Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

Renault halo highlighted by hat-trick

RENAULT appears to have cornered the market in sporting halo models.

Not content with hot Renaultsport versions of its Twingo, Clio and Mégane hatchbacks, it has also revived the historic Gordini name and its distinctive blue with white stripes livery.

It all helped the French marque to an unprecented hat-trick in the 'Best Hot Hatch' category at the prestigious What Car? magazine awards.

The Twingo Renaultsport 133 Cup small hatchback won the under £15,000 category, the Clio Renaultsport 200 Cup won the £15,000-20,000 section and the new Mégane Renaultsport 250 (pictured) won the £20,000-plus group.

To top it all, the Mégane was also crowned overall 'Hot Hatch of the Year 2010'.

But the self-styled 'Createur d'Automobiles' is not just about sporting models; it has also led in supermini design and single-handedly created the people carrier sector.

The three/five-door Clio (from £10,709) range took over from the legendary Renault 5 and now delivers a level of ride comfort and cabin space combined with French chic that has made it a UK bestseller.

It also now has a baby brother in the three-door Twingo (from £7,552) contesting the city car sector.

Renault contests the traditional company car sector with the Laguna hatchback and estate (from £18,075) but is probably better known for MPVs, having launched the sector with the original 1980s-vintage Espace.

This continues with a modern successor (from £20,730), but Renault sells more of its smaller Scenic sister range (from £14,703) – itself a pioneer of the compact or midi-MPV sector.

Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.
Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) – 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Superb range 129 – 237 g/km.

Hyundai wishes you 'many happy returns'

FAR from mourning the passing of the £2,000-a-go Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme, Hyundai plans to uphold its spirit with new deals.

These include 'Trade and Upgrade', allowing the same £2,000 part exchange offer as Scrappage and 'Happy Returns', allowing existing Hyundai Scrappage customers the chance to swap to a new 2010-reg car in March for as little as £499.

"We have learned some valuable lessons from the 33,000 people who have bought cars from us under the Scrappage scheme" said Hyundai UK MD Tony Whitehorn.

"They love transparent pricing. They hate haggling. And if they see a good deal they will snap it up.

"What we are offering post-Scrappage will build on this experience and will change the way cars are bought in the UK forever."

Under Trade and Upgrade buyers can choose any new Hyundai, not just the more expensive models.

With Happy Returns, people who bought a new i10 city car, i20 supermini or i30 family hatch last year can swap it for a 2010-reg Hyundai any time up until the car's first anniversary, saving the customer the cost of the first service and tax disc renewal.

The new car will also, of course, have a fresh five-year warranty – a standard feature across the Korean marque's range.

The customer's contribution to the deal will be £499 for an i10, £599 for an i20 or £749 for an i30 – they can trade up and down the range to switch to a different car or add options.

Skoda keeps deals rolling for new reg

SKODA has extended its 'No-VAT' offer across all Octavia, Fabia and Roomster models, with a potential saving of up to £3,388.

Instead of closing at the end of January, this deal continues to apply to orders up to March 31.

It means the popular Fabia supermini still costs from just £7,870 – saving up to £2,100 and including the eco-friendly Greenline – while the multi-award winning Octavia (pictured) that played such a major role in the Czech marque's revival is available from just £10,526.

Buyers who choose the Skoda Superb – Top Gear Magazine's Luxury Car of the Year – will benefit from three years or 30,000 miles free servicing.

In addition, low-rate finance through Skoda's Solutions is available across the range, including the recently introduced Yeti crossover, available with front-wheel drive or 4x4.

At just 7.9 per cent APR, Skoda Finance offers rates lower than the average high street bank rates.

And the brand says there is a Skoda Solution for everyone: customers can choose between part-exchanging their car for a new Skoda, making an optional final payment to purchase their new car, or simply returning it at the end of the contract.

All of the these deals top a great year for Skoda, which increased UK market share in 2009 to nearly two per cent. This was helped by the all-new Superb and Yeti and the VW-owned brand's consistent reputation for customer satisfaction – it won the highly respected Auto Express 'Driver Power' awards 2009 for 'Customer Satisfaction' and 'Best Manufacturer'.

Model shown AYGO Blue 3-dr at £8,995. Price shown is on the road price less £250 customer saving plus £250 Centre contribution. AYGO range starts at £7,758 incl. £250 customer savings and £250 Centre contribution. *3.9% APR available on all AYGO when ordered, registered & financed through Toyota Financial Services, on a 2 year AccessToyota (Personal Contract Purchase) Plan with flexible customer deposits from 0% to 35%, between 13.02.10 and 31.03.10, at participating Centres. Terms & conditions apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. This offer is not available through the Toyota (GB) PLC Scrappage Scheme. Prices correct at time of going to press & include VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Subject to availability. ^1 year's free comprehensive insurance offer is available on AYGO retail sales registered between 13.02.10 and 31.03.10. Offer available to customers aged from 21 to 75 yrs incl. (For Northern Ireland, age eligibility is 25 to 75 yrs incl.) No Claims Discount protection will be granted to customers who can provide satisfactory proof of at least 4 yrs No Claims Discount and with no more than 1 fault claim within the last 3 yrs. Use is limited to social, domestic and pleasure and commuting to a single permanent place of work. Offer is limited to the insured plus spouse (or civil/life partner) only. The insured and any additional driver must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and had no more than 1 fault claim in the last 4 years. Offer only available to customers with no more than 1 speeding conviction or pending prosecution in the last 5 years. Standard Toyota Motor Insurance Terms & Conditions apply (available on request) - these will be confirmed in the policy document. Excludes Channel Islands.

AYGO 1.0 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 51.4 (5.5), Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO2 Emissions 106g/km.

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Confidence fights chill wind

ICY weather has put a chill into a frail economy, prompting national fears of a double-dip recession, though Kent businesses generally remain confident.

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that UK retail sales – a strong economic barometer – fell by nearly two per cent last month and was hardly the strong signal required after a narrow 0.1 per cent growth over the last quarter of 2009.

The figures from the high street are even worse than those released by the British Retail Consortium earlier this month, which showed a faltering 1.2 per cent rise in January against 2008.

Bad weather has largely been blamed, though Kent retailers have put on a brave face. Tom Price, general manager at Westwood Cross in Thanet, said: "Footfall for January was up five per cent overall on last year which is very good considering the bad weather people faced. January is traditionally a flat trading period and I think the picture is generally a very mixed one with some retailers clearly experiencing a better month than others."

Outside the retail sector, businesses are refusing to think the worst, according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAEW).

It says business confidence in the South East has risen to +24.3 according to the latest Business Confidence Monitor (BCM).

This is the fourth consecutive increase in the Confidence Index from a low of -38.7 for the same period last year, but still remains below the UK average of +25.8. Looking forward, firms in the South East expect a significant improvement in the main indicators of business health over the coming year. Having seen gross profits shrink by 2.1 per cent over the last 12 months, firms now expect profits to grow by 3.7 per cent over the coming year.

Turnover, which has declined by 0.8 per cent over the year to date, is also forecast to rise over the coming year, by 3.7 per cent. Sales volumes are projected to expand by 3.8 per cent in the next 12 months following a 2.2 per cent contraction over the last year.

However, turnover, profits and sales growth expectations have all moderated slightly since the last BCM, which suggests that the region's economic recovery may be more sluggish than originally anticipated.

Fay Webster, ICAEW's South East director, said: "Despite this increase in confidence, businesses in the region are wary about turnover, profit and sales going forward. This emphasises the fragility of the recovery. It needs careful nurturing and firms need to be aware of any threats on the horizon."

However, despite the modest groundswell of confidence, one of the coldest Januarys on record has slowed the recent recovery in house building volumes seen in the latter part of 2009. Applications to build new homes across the UK during the rolling quarter November, 2009, to January, 2010, were 65 per cent up from the historical lows of the same period a year ago (from 14,738 to 24,315).

This compares however with 38,459 seen in the period November, 2007, to January, 2008, and shows just how far the recovery has yet to run in order to return the UK to the sort of volumes desperately needed.

Big Mac sizzles despite recession

BURGERS and fries chain McDonald's is making light of economic gloom by injecting £1.5 million and 30 new jobs into its Kent operations.

The move is headlined by a bold refurbishment of five restaurants across the county – two each in Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury and one in Dover.

These will each get a £300,000 makeover starting this summer and build upon McDonald's robust trading during 2009, even though the recession was still raging. The brand says it gained good market share last year, recruited 6,000 people and enjoyed a second year of double-digit growth.

The redesigned restaurants will feature McDonald's new contemporary face and style, free WiFi, new seating options and extended opening hours. They are also said to complement an updated menu other than the familiar burgers and fries, including salads, porridge, fruit bags and Rainforest Alliance certified coffee made with organic British milk.

The investment will create 30 jobs in Kent, though few in the context of a nationwide plan to employ 5,000 new people this year. McDonald's said employees will benefit from the improved restaurants as each site gains a 'crew room' with comfortable seating, TV and computer, which can even be used to study through the chain's online 'Our Lounge' staff website.

McDonald's CEO Richard Forte said: "Changes at our restaurants are well received by customers so we will continue to bring a more modern and convenient experience to them. We believe in investing in people and are pleased to provide job opportunities in Kent.

"Many of the jobs we create are filled by young people, but we aren't just providing jobs; we're providing career opportunities through training programmes including our apprenticeship scheme, GCSE and A-Level equivalent qualifications and broader on-the-job skills development."

The outlets to be refurbished are at Victoria Place and the Business Park in Tunbridge Wells, St George's Street and Stour Retail Park in Canterbury and Biggin Street, Dover.

NEW LOOK: McDonald's giving restaurants a makeover

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Helping hand on first rung of the housing ladder

HOMEGROWN housing developer Hillreed claims to be weathering the economic downturn and helping hard-pressed first-time buyers at the same time.

Marketing spokesman Dean Markall said the Maidstone-based company had seen much change in its 35 years, but nothing like the ups and then downs of the past decade.

And he agreed that first-timers had been worst hit, through now having to find sometimes hefty deposits when previously they simply saved for their moving costs, carpets and fees.

But he said Hillreed had moved to plug the gap: "We use equity share, which can be tailored to the amount that the purchaser is struggling to fill that gap by.

"Also that's sometimes helped out by parents who are happy to invest in another property with their children, rather than leaving the money in an account that perhaps isn't giving them the best of returns."

But the market has also been slowed by would-be buyers higher up the housing ladder and Hillreed had used part exchanges to unlock moves that wouldn't otherwise go ahead.

"If it fits certain criteria, then part exchange is a very hassle-free way of people moving on," said Mr Markall.

• For more comment on the housing sector, see our video at: www.businessforkent.co.uk or search 'business'@yourkenttv.co.uk.

To view, search 'Hillreed' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Hillreed's Dean Markall tells Julie Maddocks how the housing developer is trying to 'plug the gap' and help first-time buyers

Firms' BIG chance to bid for Olympic gold

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

FIRMS in Kent and Medway are now better placed in the race for contracts linked to the London Olympics in 2012 and the public sector generally thanks to the University of Greenwich at Medway.

That is the claim after the university's School of Engineering launched a Business Innovation Group (BIG) to hold networking and information gathering events for local companies. BIG events will also show how the university can share its facilities and expertise to help firms broaden their markets and achieve their goals.

The new organisation showed a flying start by welcoming more than 90 guests to a BIG breakfast launch at the campus in Chatham Maritime, where Business Link regional programme manager Paul Toben outlined the bidding process for the London 2012 Games and contracts worth some £9 billion.

Competing

He advised business leaders to seek contracts and opportunities through the Business Network one-stop shop www.competefor.com within the website www.london2012.com.

He said firms competing for contracts also needed to prove they are 'fit to supply' and meet requirements such as demonstrating their business credentials and policies.

And Mr Toben recommended taking advantage of specialist advice from organisations such as Business Link, where advisers could not only ensure companies fulfilled mandatory requirements to bid for 2012 Games contracts, but also help on policies and planning to help companies differentiate themselves from their competitors.

Tim Allen, MD of the MJ Allen engineering group, based in Ashford, delivered the keynote address: A Manufacturer's Experience of Public Sector Contracts, and urged local businesses to take advantage of the economic climate, where local and national government was keen to buy in services and products, as research had shown outsourcing generally saved up to 20 per cent.

He also outlined the importance of exploring contract and tendering information via websites such as supply2.gov.uk – a key route for contracts valued at less than £100,000.

He also valued the South East Business Portal, outlining opportunities with the region's 74 local authorities and nine fire and rescue services.

And he urged businesses to gain recognised status through such programmes as the Contractors' Health and Safety Approval Scheme (CHAS) to simplify aspects of the tendering process.

Dr Pal Kulandaivel, who organised the event for the university, said: "BIG promises to add real value to the local business community and the network is being built in association with a range of key local business organisations.

"These include Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce, the Partnership for Profit Improvement, and South East Business Innovation and Growth.

"We are planning a calendar of monthly meetings which will provide advice and information on such topics as bid writing, collaborative development projects, knowledge transfer partnerships and EU funding.

"In addition, there will be special events focusing on specific sectors such as electronics and engineering."

IN THE RUNNING: The University of Greenwich is helping win the 2012 contracts race

Export expert's bank role

HSBC has appointed James Dodson as deputy head of corporate banking for the South East including Kent, with a brief to help potential exporters.

He will deal with bank customers turning over in excess of £25 million and report to regional chief Chris Doyle at HSBC's South East Corporate Banking Centre, Crawley.

Dodson has 20 years' experience in banking, notably corporate banking and leveraged finance.

He has previously been head of the Far East Banking Centre for HSBC and coordinated HSBC's corporate and structured banking international strategy in the UK.

With a timely reference to recent national calls to rebuild the UK's former export strength, Doyle, revealed that, among other tasks: "James will be focused on working to explore and unlock the potential for international growth among our new and existing customer base.

"I am sure his strong background in this area will be a real benefit for businesses in the region."

Dodson himself added: "I will be looking to help businesses realise their international potential through my knowledge and HSBC's unrivalled position in this area."

HSBC's James Dodson

Dame Stella and stellar author at conference

FORMER head of MI5 Dame Stella Rimington and Kent-based motivational speaker Adrian Webster are top draws at a Kent human resources conference next week.

Hosted by Kent County Council, the third Kent HR Conference on Thursday aims to bring public and private sector HR practitioners together to share techniques and generate ideas.

Dame Stella was the spy bureau's first ever female head and the inspiration for Dame Judi Dench as 'M' in the James Bond movies. Mr Webster is the Bearsted man who started out as a policeman, then founded a milk delivery firm from scratch before embarking on a stellar career in sales.

He is author of the cult company culture 'bible' Polar Bear Pirates and Their Quest to Reach Fat City.

He will share tips on how to create a winning environment on a shoestring budget. "I normally take the train to the north or speak in London, so it's a pleasure to be presenting to a home audience," he said.

"Things have moved on since my first book and I hope to be able to give my Polar Bear Pirates new skills to equip them to engage and inspire everyday people to deliver extraordinary results."

Tickets are still available for the conference, being held at the Ashford International Hotel, from 9.30am.

For more information, click on www.kent.gov.uk/kenthrconference.

Stella Rimington

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.79% **L:** 70% **U:** 30/04/2012
OD: £1,304

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2013
OD: £1,044

BM SOLUTIONS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.29% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2013
OD: £2,174

NATWEST INT SOLS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.39% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2012
OD: £529

OTHER

NORTHERN ROCK
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.65% **L:** 70% **U:** 01/04/2012
OD: £1,030

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.49% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £1,290

MORTGAGE BOX – ACCORD
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 28/02/2012
OD: £2,285

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 1.84% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £2,310

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Call centre jobs risk as bank giant wields axe

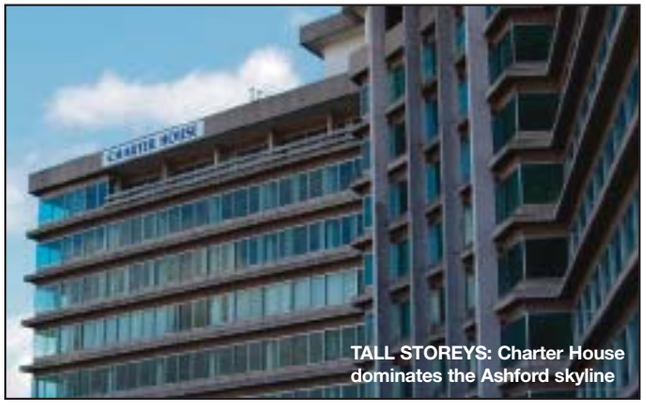
By **STEVE LOADER** and **ED HILL**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPANISH-based banking giant Santander is closing its Alliance and Leicester call centre in Ashford, putting 128 jobs at risk.

Santander took over the Alliance chain in 2008 and workers at the centre in Charter House began to fear for their jobs a year ago, though unions had hoped to persuade management into a new long-term contract to keep the site open.

Nigel Cotgrove from the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) said: "This is a bitter blow to our hard-working members who are among the best performing staff in the whole bank. This news is all the more disappointing given the impressive profits achieved by Santander UK."

The news also conflicts with a Santander PR charity campaign covered by BusinessforKent, to rebrand 29 branches of the former Abbey and Bradford and Bingley building societies across Kent.


TALL STOREYS: Charter House dominates the Ashford skyline

Santander launched the promotion in mid-January, saying it wanted to strengthen relationships in communities served by the relevant branches. "It's part of Santander's ongoing commitment to local communities, with over £5 million donated to good causes last year," a spokeswoman said at the time.

Unfortunately, the only communities benefiting from Santander's plans for the Alliance chain will be in the north of England, where it now wants to concentrate the business.

The Ashford centre will close in June, having opened in 1985. It deals with customer calls on current and savings accounts and is one of the last major employers using Charter House. Mr Cotgrove said: "We urged Santander to use our skilled members as the core of a new long-term contact centre in Ashford. However, we have been unable to convince the bank to reverse its decision. We are now focusing on options to keep as many people in jobs as possible through redeployment or relocation."

A voluntary redundancy scheme has been launched for employees.

A spokesman from Alliance and Leicester said: "Carlton Park in Leicester and Bootle in Merseyside are strategically important sites for us in the UK and as such ones that will be a focus for the consolidation of our operations.

"All staff will be offered relocation or redeployment to other roles in the region. Santander has approximately 90 vacancies in the South East.

"This decision may lead to a number of redundancies, where staff do not wish to relocate and redeployment is not found, although it is hoped these will be voluntary.

"There is never a good time to announce changes such as this and we are acutely aware of the uncertainty staff are facing. We thank them for their continued professionalism and co-operation."

Dukelease Properties owns and manages Charter House, but declined to comment. Santander, founded in Spain in 1857, has grown rapidly across Europe in recent years and now claims to be the most efficient bank operating in the UK.

It serves 25 million customers through two retail businesses here: the rebranded Santander, formed from the Abbey and Bradford and Bingley – acquired in 2004 and 2008 respectively – and Alliance and Leicester.

OPEN MARKET ANNUITY RATES FOR MATURING PENSION FUNDS – PER £10,000

* ASSUME 50% INCOME FOR SPOUSE OF SAME AGE ON ANNUITANTS DEATH, PAYABLE MONTHLY IN ADVANCE WITHOUT ESCALATION, RATE IS PER £10,000 OF FUND MATURED AND ASSUME THE CLIENT IS IN GOOD HEALTH

MALE AGED 60		FEMALE AGED 60	
LEGAL & GENERAL	£544	AVIVA	£527
CANADA LIFE	£538	CANADA LIFE	£526
AVIVA	£522	LEGAL & GENERAL	£518
AEGON SE	£512	PRUDENTIAL	£497
PRUDENTIAL	£510	STANDARD LIFE	£496

MALE AGED 65		FEMALE AGED 65	
LEGAL & GENERAL	£597	CANADA LIFE	£575
CANADA LIFE	£591	AVIVA	£571
AVIVA	£574	LEGAL & GENERAL	£565
PRUDENTIAL	£574	PRUDENTIAL	£557
STANDARD LIFE	£565	STANDARD LIFE	£552

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Tom has competition stitched up

EMBROIDERER Tom McCann knows how to attract attention and now he's picked up £1,000 of free printing for his efforts.

Tom became one of just four UK winners of a printing company's "shameless plug" competition after driving around Ashford for five days with a 7ft by 3ft banner on the back of his truck.

He had a bit of a head start, as the 'van' in question is a head-turning bright red customised Chevrolet Silverado, and the attention-seeking paid off handsomely when Printing.com picked him out as one of its weekly winners.

"I've just set up a new clothing embroidery business called Logotogogo, and since I needed some promotional material printed I decided I'd enter Printing.com's 'Give us a shameless plug' competition," Tom explained.

His efforts were so convincing that while he was driving around the Designer Outlet Centre, someone stopped him and asked him how much he would charge to print them some business cards.

DRIVEN MAN: Tom McCann and Chevy Silverado

More than 65,000 customers in the UK were invited to enter the competition via email and post. Ashford's Printing.com manager Danny Clements said he was delighted that the town had produced a winner in the national contest.

New faces on Caxtons team

JAMES LOGAN

CAXTONS Chartered Surveyors has welcomed two new faces to its commercial agency in Kent, including a new head for that division, based in Canterbury.

He is James Logan, who studied for his estate management degree at the University of Greenwich and has been a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors since 2001.

"I am delighted to have been appointed head of Caxtons' Commercial Agency in Canterbury," he said. "I look forward to building upon the excellent name Caxtons has already established in the area."

JAMES ROBERTS

Having previously worked in Caxtons' student lettings division in Canterbury, James Roberts has moved to the Kent Thameside office in Gravesend, where he joins the commercial agency industrial and Office division as a commercial property agent.

"I learned a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed my time as a member of the student lettings team, but I am delighted to be working within the commercial property sector, where I feel very at home. We, at Caxtons, are well positioned to take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities available now and in the future."

James graduated from the University of Greenwich in 2006 with a degree in politics and business.

Smaller firms sought for 'find and fix' roads blitz

AFTER one of the worst winters in memory, Kent County Council, is putting out tenders to rectify appalling weather damage and potholes scarring county roads.

The authority is targeting small and medium-sized enterprises to bid for the 'find and fix' mission, with mid-April as a targeted start date.KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We want to get on with the job of tackling Kent's potholes – and fast. I recently announced that we are making available at least £1 million additional funds for this. If needed, more will be found."

He added the authority was also keen to back small and medium-sized businesses in the economic downturn to "do a quality find and fix repair on the Kent road network.

"We have already fixed more than 10,000 potholes and more now needs to be done. When we have the new contractors on board, the blitz can begin in earnest."

Stores adopt waste food to fuel system

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

SUPERMARKET chain Waitrose has committed to a waste-food-to-fuel system for all of its 15 Kent food stores.

The industry-leading measures, which collect and then convert leftover food into renewable energy, has also won Waitrose – in partnership with recycling expert Cawleys – a major green award from the Association For Organics Recycling (AFOR).

Waitrose was the first UK food retailer to begin using anaerobic digestion in 2008 and, by May, more than half its stores will contribute waste food to feed the national grid – more than any other retailer.

Micro-organisms break down the leftovers to produce a methane-rich biogas, allowing Waitrose to generate 400MWhr of electricity so far through anaerobic digestion – enough to boil almost eight million kettles.

Apart from power generated though, anaerobic digestion also eliminates the need to send waste to landfill sites where it leaks methane gas into the atmosphere and contributes to global warming.

The retailer has also been prominent in efforts to drive down waste elsewhere in the supermarket industry, through sustainable practices and reuseable and recyclable packaging.

GREEN PUSH: Waitrose's Kent stores will be converting waste food to fuel by May

It says it has already diverted 50 per cent of its total operational waste away from landfill and anaerobic digestion will help it to a goal of 95 per cent by 2013. Waitrose recycling and waste manager Arthur Sayer said: "It's not in our business interests to produce any waste at all.

"Inevitably though, some food waste does occur and anaerobic digestion has proven to be a sustainable way of eliminating the need to send it to landfill, reducing our impact on the environment and creating renewable energy along the way.

"This recognition comes at an exciting time as we extend anaerobic digestion to more of our shops."

Extension of the scheme to Kent is part of a new phase involving 66 stores and Cawleys MD Jon Cawley said it showed that Waitrose now treated food waste management as seriously as food sourcing.

"Anaerobic digestion creates a positive circle whereby food waste can be recycled back to fertiliser for the land, in a process which produces renewable energy, and avoids sending waste to landfill, where it can produce greenhouse gases."

The Kent stores due to join the anaerobic digestion scheme by May are the newly-opened Ashford, plus Bromley, Bromley South, Beckenham, Green Street Green, Ramsgate, Hythe, Dartford, Longfield, Allington Park, Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Sevenoaks, Biggin Hill and Tenterden.

Homegrown waste firm expanding operations

WASTE management and recycling group Countrystyle has expanded operations in Kent, with the help of investment promotion agency Locate in Kent.

Countrystyle now has a new HQ in Lenham, near Maidstone, which includes a new 'dry recycling' facility for paper, cardboard and plastics.

The firm has also completed new offices and a material recovery facility (MRF) at its Ridham Dock site, near Sittingbourne.

This development also includes a hi-tech composting system, one of the first in Kent, recycling organic material into products for use in agriculture and landscaping. The company began as a family-run agricultural business in Pluckley, near Ashford, and launched composting services in 1996 after noticing demand from the farming community.

It has gone on to become a leader in alternatives to landfill, which still takes nearly half of England's municipal waste – 27 million tonnes in 2009 according the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Recent changes in waste legislation have led Countrystyle to develop viable alternatives and the company aims to offer complete waste management and recycling, from one-off skip hire to handling large multinationals. Manager Caroline Mills said: "Our new site in Lenham, close to the M20, along with our sites in Sittingbourne, Strood and Folkestone, ensure we can reach as many customers in the South East as possible."

The company recently submitted a planning application to Kent County Council for a biomass power plant at Ridham Dock. It is a joint venture with North Yorkshire-based clean energy specialist Bioflame, aiming to divert waste wood from landfill into generating electricity for more than 6,300 homes.

MORE than 20 jobs at Kent prepared food company Good Food 2 Go have been saved by insolvency and turnaround specialist SFP.

It was a fast rescue; Good Food 2 Go went into administration earlier this month due to rising food costs and falling demand.

Within a week of appointment, SFP turned the Erith-based business around with the sale of its trade and assets to food company Grassmore for an undisclosed sum.

SFP partner Simon Plant said: "For us to be able to save jobs in the current economic environment is a particularly positive outcome for both the workforce and the customers of the business.

"Unfortunately, four employees were made redundant due to unavoidable economic, technical and organisational issues, but 21 members of Good Food 2 Go's workforce will remain in employment, transferring their knowledge and skills to the new company."

UNIVERSITY of Kent Students' Union has achieved 'two-star status' from the Best Companies accreditation scheme 2010.

The status is earned by organisations demonstrating high levels of employee engagement, based on the views of employees themselves from surveys and questionnaires.

Nationwide, 1,086 companies entered the process and only 140 companies achieved the same status as the Kent Union – most were private sector organisations – and just 50 achieved coveted three-star status.

Kent Union scored highly for a flexible rewards package, allowing staff a choice of options including various pension schemes, additional student loan payments and the opportunity to buy extra holiday time.

It also aims for a healthy work/life balance, which includes generous maternity and paternity cover, grandparent leave and the option to take 'duvet days'. The latest award shows further improvement at the union following a one-star award last year.

BUSINESS Link Kent has confirmed its support for the inaugural Sevenoaks Business Show on March 24, being held in association with Sevenoaks and District Chamber of Commerce and Sevenoaks Town Council.

The show offers free entry to delegates and is being staged at the Stag Plaza in London Road, where Business Link aims to join with the local chamber and other networking groups to provide delegates with instant access to clear, simple, and trustworthy information and advice. A website for the event has been set up: www.businessshowsevenoaks.co.uk.

ONE of Kent's best known faces in the travel industry is to take the lead role in a national advertising campaign.

Liza Royce has worked at Pickford's Travel, Going Places and Thomas Cook over the years, managing branches in Margate, Ramsgate, Folkestone, Broadstairs and Canterbury. But she made her biggest career leap so far when she returned to homeworking with Future Travel and will become the face of a print ad campaign encouraging more travel professionals to work from home.

She said: "Some agencies have become too corporate and holidaymakers want an alternative to the faceless internet. Being a homeworker allows me to create the ideal holiday experience face-to-face. Future Travel is part of Co-operative Travel, which reassures holidaymakers as well as giving me access to savings provided by their buying power."

Bonus taking the sting out of self-employed PPI

THOUSANDS who opted out of 'normal' employment in order to work for themselves may be sitting on a bitter-sweet bonus.

Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) reclaim specialist Total-Reclaim says it has seen an increase in people who haven't just been mis-sold PPI policies when they've taken out loans or credit cards, but have also been left unaware that their policy becomes invalid when they become self-employed. But they can take steps to recover some of their cash.

Daryl Vickers of Total-Reclaim said: "Anyone who is, or becomes, self-employed, retired, a student, works less than 16 hours a week, has certain medical conditions, a dangerous job or is in the Armed Forces should not be sold PPI or continue payments if their employment status changes and meets any of those criteria – they are unable to make any claim.

"And yet banks and lenders continue to mis-sell PPIs, but also misinform, or fail to inform, people who have ongoing PPI policies.

"When somebody moves out of full-time employment and becomes self-employed they will inevitably advise their bank because there will be a change in their finances.

"The problem is the lenders have not been telling those people their PPI becomes invalid, but have nevertheless continued taking PPI policy payments against insurance that would never be paid out so long as they are self-employed. People who become self-employed may believe their loan payments are covered by PPI should they lose their income. They're not – but they're still paying premiums."

In cases where PPI has been mis-sold, Total-Reclaim says it can help people recover some of their funds. The average refund and compensation is £1,800.

Airport chief's personal plea

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

LYDD Airport MD Jonathan Gordon has made a personal plea to all 46 members of Shepway District Council to say 'yes' on Wednesday to a major expansion of the site.

Councillors will consider planning applications for a runway extension and a new terminal which, says Mr Gordon, will boost the district's future economic prospects and directly create 500 new jobs.

"We have invested £27 million in Lydd in recent years and plan to invest a further £25m in the project to deliver a modern, sustainable regional airport that Kent can be proud of," he said.

"This is a significant private sector investment in the future of Romney Marsh at no cost to the public purse. We have painstakingly prepared our applications and we are disappointed that Shepway officers are not recommending a resolution to grant." However, he was pleased that an internal report to the council showed progress had been made on some objections, though disappointed and frustrated that council planners still have concerns about noise, possible impact on the area's Site of Special Scientific Interest, and local bird life.

He said: "We note the council has accepted that most of the issues have been resolved, with the exception of the potential impact on birds.

But he added: "We are very robust in our position and I hope that when councillors have taken stock of the overwhelming body of evidence in front of them, they will see they are legally able to vote in a positive way and will be persuaded to make the right choice for the future of our community.

"We have just seen the latest jobless figures with, regrettably, another 132 added to the district's total which is now 2,751.

"A successful Lydd Airport will create more than 500 new high-quality, well-paid jobs."

Scrappage's crushing blow

CRUSHERS have been working flat out for nearly a year on cars surrendered under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

The arrangement allows owners of cars older than 10 years to scrap their 'banger' in return for a £2,000 grant towards a new replacement.

The scheme – due to end on March 31 – has been trumpeted as a major success for the Government, by saving jobs in the motor industry and retail trade and removing 370,000 older cars from the environment.

But the verdict was challenged this week by an experienced car auctioneer, who highlighted knock-on effects: a shortage of quality used cars and a dearth of affordable ageing runabouts for newly qualified and first-time drivers.

Jon Chapman, of Hobbs Parker Car Auctions in Ashford, said Scrappage may have enjoyed an above average take up in Kent and the South East, but added: "Many highly serviceable small cars, perhaps belonging to one careful elderly owner, have ended up on the scrap heap instead of being available to a new owner for a few more years' good service."

The result is soaring prices at Hobbs Parker's twice-weekly auctions, with certain models up by 15 per cent and some as much as 25 per cent. Auction stock is also more likely to sell than before, with about 70 per cent now sold on the day.

"This is the first time in years I've witnessed such an unprecedented and sustained growth in prices," said Mr Chapman, adding that smaller, older cars were become hard to source.

And four-wheel-drive vehicles have become popular again too, after falling out of favour as alleged 'gas guzzlers'.

One Hobbs Parker customer was delighted to learn recently that his Land Rover Discovery, bought at auction just 18 months ago, was worth more than he paid for it.

NEW WHEELS: But good little runabouts have fallen by the wayside, say auctioneers

Runners bidding to make impact on national stage

ALMOST 100 runners from Tonbridge Athletic Club will make their bid for glory in Leeds today at the National Cross Country Championships.

After a superb winter which has seen the club dominate the county scene and perform well regionally, the club have a chance to make an impact on a national stage in the biggest event on the domestic cross-country calendar.

Tonbridge are taking it seriously, travelling up to Yorkshire last night and not returning until tomorrow. Mark Hookway, one of the club's team managers, is hoping to come back with some silverware.

He said: "For coaches this is what we hinge our winter on and how we judge ourselves against the best in the country. We're not going up there just to enjoy it, we want to try and win some medals. It would be quite difficult to go up there for two nights if all your teams finish 20th."

Tonbridge have enjoyed considerable success in recent years in the junior boys and it is likely their best chances for medals will again come in the under-13s and under-15s.

Tonbridge's under-13s have been in sensational form all winter, winning a clean sweep in the county championships and taking the South of England team title last month. Led by George Duggan, who picked up a silver in the regional championships, they have an opportunity to emulate the 2005 and 2007 teams by taking the title.

The club's record in the boys under-15s is even more impressive, with three national team titles in the last four years. A team of 13 go today looking to maintain the run of success, with Tom Devlin leading their charge.

Further up the age groups, Grace Nicholls comes into the junior women's race full of confidence after making her debut for the England under-20s a fortnight ago.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

NATIONAL PRIDE: Tonbridge runners aim to take county form into championships

In-form Suns to take the sting out of Wandsworth

By STEVE TERVET

Wandsworth Sting v Sevenoaks Suns

TIP-OFF 5PM AT BATTERSEA SPORTS CENTRE

CONFIDENCE is high in the Sevenoaks Suns camp following the senior women's superb 55-51 win at Nottingham Wildcats a week ago.

The Suns travelled north more in hope than expectation, but, boosted by the return of Kristine Lewis, they flew out of the blocks and managed to cling on to their lead throughout.

Suns head coach Len Busch said: "It was a good win for us and pretty unexpected, to be honest. We got off to a really good start, we played an unbelievable second quarter and then managed to maintain a little bit of composure.

"They had three very strong players and when one of them got hurt, they didn't adjust to it. We locked down the other players, Sabra Rice and Caitlin Flood, and they had nobody else to trouble us. Kris [Lewis] gets a lot of rebounds and she does a lot for us defensively. When she's playing, we are a much faster team."

With the senior side now on a mid-season break until March 10, the under-18s are now the sole focus of Busch's attention as he looks to guide them to top spot in EBL South ahead of the end-of-season play-offs.

The Suns hosted lowly Eastside Eagles at Sevenoaks School last night and today they travel to another struggling team, Wandsworth Sting, hoping to end the weekend with maximum points.

Busch will include six under-16 players in his squad for the trip to London and admitted the game was unlikely to cause the Suns too many problems.

"Wandsworth are a very weak side," he said. "We will use some of our younger players and we'll work on some different things but games like these do not do much for our stronger players."

The Suns' men return to action tomorrow as they travel to face Southgate Academical Lions. Tip-off is at 3.30pm.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

LONDON'S CALLING: Renee Busch and the Suns should be too good for Wandsworth

Sevenoaks looking to do double over Chelmsford

SEVENOAKS men's first-team play the second of two home games in four days against Chelmsford on Sunday looking to put more daylight between themselves and the bottom clubs.

Tomorrow's game follows Thursday's rearranged fixture against Southgate, which, in turn, preceded Sunday's 3-1 success away to Holcombe.

Skipper Jamie Nelson was full of praise for the team following the Holcombe win.

He said: "It was one of our better performances. We were solid and when the chances came we took them.

"We went through a lot of changes earlier in the season with some players going off to university and others moving from the area. I think that we're settling down gradually.

"But we're still fourth from bottom and looking over our shoulders, though the gap between us and those teams below us is widening."

Sevenoaks ladies 1st XI play away to struggling Cambridge this afternoon, looking to maintain pressure on leaders Ipswich and follow up last weekend's 4-0 success against Southgate.

It was the side's biggest and best win of the season and with teams around them failing to win at the weekend, victory enabled them to draw further away from the pursuing pack.

Team manager Christine Crosley said: "Confidence is high because the team are playing so well as a unit."

Beth Begg opened the scoring while Nicky Lloyd marked her return from the United States with a brace. Jet van Zalen added the fourth on a highly satisfying afternoon for the side.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

REARRANGED FIXTURE Sevenoaks ladies beat Southgate last week

SEVENOAKS FIXTURES

TODAY

MEN: Sutton Valence 1st X1 v Sevenoaks 2nd X1, Sevenoaks 3A X1 v Maidstone 3rd X1; Ashford 2nd X1 v Sevenoaks Men 3rd X1, Sevenoaks 3A v Holcombe 3rd X1, Sevenoaks 4A X1 v Ashford 4th X1, Deal v Sevenoaks 4th X1, Maidstone 4th X1 v Sevenoaks Men 5A X1, Gravesham 2nd X1, Sevenoaks 6th X1 v Deal 2nd XI

LADIES: Cambridge City v Sevenoaks 1st X1, St Albans v Sevenoaks 2nd X1, Holcombe 2nd v Sevenoaks 3A X1; Sevenoaks 3rd X1 v BromBeck 2nd, Sevenoaks 4th X1 v Gravesend 2nd X1, Sevenoaks 5th X1 v Cobdown 1st X1

SUNDAY

MEN: Sevenoaks 1st X1 v Chelmsford 1st XI

Second relegation would be a 'disaster' for Wells

TUNBRIDGE Wells skipper Chris Page did not mince words as the side faced the prospect of a second consecutive relegation after dropping into the bottom three following last weekend's defeat to Gore Court.

As the side seek to atone at the expense of visitors Old Bordenians today, Page said relegation would be a "disaster" as the side attempt to consolidate after last season's drop to Kent/Sussex Regional Division Two.

He said: "After last season's relegation it's vital we consolidate. We have six games left and they will all be cup finals, starting with Old Bordenians today.

"If we stay in this division then I'm confident we can encourage a number of former players to return to the club and strengthen things up for next season."

Page described next month's home games against struggling Lewes and Eastbourne as crucial in the team's fight for survival, but conceded that home advantage will count for nothing.

Billy Priestley's goal came too late to spare the Wells from a 2-1 defeat against Court last weekend, whom Page admitted deserved their win.

Tunbridge Wells ladies 1st XI, sixth in the Eastern Women's Division One South, entertain Broxbourne, who are immediately below them, and are looking to bounce back after last weekend's 5-2 Kent Cup exit against Holcombe.

"We've two games in hand and we must make them count," captain Jen Hunt said. "We drew with Broxbourne earlier in the season and we're expecting another tight game."

The side will be without defender Roberta Organ, who broke a hand against Holcs but bravely carried on. She could be out for three weeks.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

RESPONSE: Tunbridge Wells look to bounce back from defeat at Old Bordenians

TUNBRIDGE WELLS FIXTURES

TODAY

MEN: Tunbridge Wells 1st XI v Folkestone 1st XI, Folkestone 2nd XI v Tunbridge Wells 2nd XI, Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI v Gore Court 4th XI, Borden 6th XI v Tunbridge Wells 4th XI

SUNDAY

LADIES: Tunbridge Wells 1st XI v Broxbourne 1st XI, Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI v New Beccehamians 1st XI, Blackheath 4th XI v Tunbridge Wells 4th XI, Tunbridge Wells 5th XI v Gravesend 4th XI, Tunbridge Wells 6th XI v Cliftonville 3rd XI.

NON-LEAGUE PREVIEW By Steve Tervet

Headed in different directions

LAST weekend saw Kent's Ryman League clubs endure mixed fortunes with Dartford and Margate edging closer to the exit doors at opposite ends of the Premier Division.

Poor midweek weather caused the postponement of several games involving Kent sides and all will hope to complete 90 minutes today, avoiding further fixture congestion.

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

Bognor Regis Town v Cray Wanderers

SEVEN days on from their superb 2-1 win over high-flying Kingstonian, Cray must replicate the feat against one of the league's strugglers in West Sussex today.

Wanderers go into the game having won five of their last six games, although they lost 2-0 when Bognor visited Hayes Lane in December.

The Rocks, meanwhile, have won just once at home in eight attempts.

Boreham Wood v Dartford

DARTFORD'S away form has been the backbone for their terrific season and they will need to be at their best again to see off promotion-chasing Boreham Wood.

Tony Burman's side have taken 30 points from a possible 33 on their travels, while the Wood have lost two of their last three home games.

Despite having played three games fewer than today's hosts, the Darts have scored 26 more goals.

Maidstone United v Harrow Borough

PLAYING their second game in 42 hours, Maidstone are hoping to put distance between themselves and the bottom four, having made a shaky start under Peter Nott.

The caretaker boss saw the Stones held 1-1 at fellow strugglers Billericay a week ago and the hosts have their work cut out today against a Harrow side which has gone six games without defeat.

Tonbridge Angels v Kingstonian

TONBRIDGE face Kingstonian at Longmead on the back of a morale-boosting 2-1 win at Carshalton Athletic last Saturday.

Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

MORALE BOOST: Tonbridge Angels (in blue) got a much-needed win last week

They also won 3-2 at Kingsmeadow when the sides met in November, but Tommy Warrilow's side have not kept a clean sheet in 18 league outings. He will have striker Meshach Nugent available for his home debut up front, but winger Kirk Watts (suspension) and defender Sonny Miles (holiday) are both absent.

Wealdstone v Margate

THE new Margate manager must begin his quest to save the Blues from relegation without midfielder Joe Healy, who quit the club on Tuesday citing work commitments.

The Gate travel to Wealdstone without a win in nine games and even a draw today could see them propping up the Ryman Premier table by full-time.

Wealdstone knocked Margate out of the FA Trophy in October but have lost their last two home games.

RYMAN ONE SOUTH

Chipstead v Ashford Town

ASHFORD'S recent revival has seen them edge above Kent rivals Whitstable Town at the foot of Ryman One South, and they will be hopeful of another result today.

Midfielder Chris Borchescu has signed until the end of the season from Thamesmead Town and is in contention for a starting place in Surrey.

Struggling Chipstead have won just one of their last five home games.

Corinthian Casuals v Chatham Town

CHATS boss Alex O'Brien has brought in three new faces to shake things up following a rotten run of results which has left his side adrift in mid-table.

Centre-back Chris Henry (Ebbsfleet United), winger Rico Briggs (Cambridge United) and striker Jake Hall (Welling United) have all signed loan deals and will start if fit.

The hosts come into the game on the back of four straight defeats.

Folkestone Invicta v Croydon Athletic

THE top two sides in Ryman South go head-to-head at the Buzzlines Stadium.

Simon Austin, red-carded in last Saturday's 2-0 defeat at Bourne Park, has yet to begin his suspension and should start alongside James Everitt in attack.

Croydon have been unstoppable in recent weeks, winning five on the bounce and scoring 15 goals in the process.

Ramsgate v Metropolitan Police

WITHOUT a home win in four attempts, Ramsgate's season has stalled but they are boosted by the return of three players from suspension this afternoon.

Danny Twyman, Andy Hadden and captain Warren Schulz are all likely to start at Southwood as Jim Ward looks to change his side's recent poor fortunes.

The sides scrapped out a 1-1 draw at Imber Court in November.

Sittingbourne v Godalming Town

THESE two sides were due to meet in Surrey on Tuesday night, but a waterlogged pitch means they will square up for the first time this afternoon.

Sittingbourne manager Gary Abbott is sweating on the fitness of goalkeeper Deren Ibrahim, who was stretchered off during the 2-0 win over Folkestone a week ago.

Veteran Steve Williams could deputise, while midfielder Danny Bleach will start on the bench.

Walton Casuals v Whitstable Town

WITH Tuesday's game against Burgess Hill Town postponed, Ian Pulman is still waiting to make his second Whitstable debut after returning from Australia.

Pulman, who scored for the reserves last Saturday, is likely to renew acquaintances with Dave Cory in attack as the Oystermen look to climb off the foot of the table.

Casuals have been beaten 1-0 in their last two home games.

Games free from wintry conditions at last

KENT LEAGUE PREVIEW

FOR only the second time this season, there is a full programme of fixtures in the Kent League as the picture surrounding the title starts to come into focus.

The 'big three' finally became the top three this week as Hythe Town climbed above Erith & Belvedere and Scott Porter's side face the toughest test of their season today with a trip to leaders Faversham Town.

The Lilywhites remain unbeaten at home and go into the game on the back of five straight league wins, although they left it late to snatch all three points in a 2-0 win at Sporting Bengal last Saturday.

Hythe have games in hand but cannot afford to lose today if they are to keep pace with Town and Herne Bay, who welcome Erith Town to Winch's Field this afternoon.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

HEAD TO HEAD: (l-r) Scott Porter (Hythe) and Justin Luchford (Faversham)

Bay have been in commanding form recently and appear to be Faversham's strongest challengers, while Erith's inconsistency has been their undoing all season.

Beckenham Town, who were last-minute winners against Tunbridge Wells seven days ago, scrapped out a 1-1 draw at Erith on Monday night and will be looking to stretch their unbeaten run to four games in today's early kick-off at Greenwich Borough.

Erith & Belvedere have endured a torrid start to 2010 but they will be confident of picking up three points from their trip to lowly Fisher this afternoon. Having finally seen off Sevenoaks Town in the Kent Senior Trophy, Deal return to league action with a home game against Sporting Bengal.

Also in the bottom half, Tunbridge Wells host Corinthian and basement club Lordswood take on Holmesdale.

KENT LEAGUE FIXTURES TODAY

All games kick off at 3pm unless otherwise stated:

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Deal Town v Sporting Bengal United; Faversham Town v Hythe Town; Fisher v Erith & Belvedere; Greenwich Borough v Beckenham Town (2pm); Herne Bay v Erith Town; Lordswood v Holmesdale; Sevenoaks Town v Norton Sports; Tunbridge Wells v Corinthian

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

COCA COLA LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Norwich City	33	21	6	6	69	36	+33	69
2 Leeds United	32	19	9	4	55	25	+30	66
3 Colchester United	32	18	8	6	49	31	+18	62
4 Charlton Athletic	33	16	12	5	57	37	+20	60
5 Swindon Town	31	16	11	4	53	38	+15	59
6 Huddersfield Town	32	16	9	7	58	33	+25	57
7 Millwall	32	15	10	7	46	32	+14	55
8 Milton Keynes Dons	32	15	4	13	47	46	+1	49
9 Walsall	32	11	10	11	40	38	+2	43
10 Bristol Rovers	31	13	3	15	38	47	-9	42
11 Southampton (-10)	30	12	12	6	49	32	+17	38
12 Brentford	30	9	11	10	32	32	0	38
13 Yeovil Town	33	9	11	13	41	45	-4	38
14 Carlisle United	32	9	10	13	43	48	-5	37
15 Leyton Orient	32	9	10	13	42	48	-6	37
16 Hartlepool United	32	9	8	15	41	50	-9	35
17 Gillingham	**33**	**8**	**10**	**15**	**33**	**44**	**-11**	**34**
18 Brighton & Hove	32	8	10	14	38	51	-13	34
19 Tranmere Rovers	32	9	6	17	28	51	-23	33
20 Southend United	32	8	8	16	35	47	-12	32
21 Oldham Athletic	30	8	8	14	24	37	-13	32
22 Exeter City	32	7	10	15	34	47	-13	31
23 Wycombe Wanderers	33	6	10	17	33	57	-24	28
24 Stockport County	31	4	8	19	27	60	-33	20

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Oxford United	30	20	6	4	55	21	+34	66
2 Stevenage Borough	30	18	9	3	52	21	+31	63
3 York City	31	17	9	5	44	25	+19	60
4 Luton Town	31	16	8	7	41	28	+13	56
5 Kettering Town	31	16	6	9	40	26	+14	54
6 AFC Wimbledon	32	15	8	9	52	29	+23	53
7 Mansfield Town	32	16	5	11	53	41	+12	53
8 Rushden & Diamonds	27	13	7	7	47	29	+18	46
9 Kidderminster Harriers	30	13	7	10	41	31	+10	46
10 Altrincham	31	12	9	10	41	31	+10	45
11 Crawley Town	31	13	6	12	35	40	-5	45
12 Wrexham	29	11	8	10	30	25	+5	41
13 Histon	30	10	9	11	35	39	-4	39
14 Tamworth	33	9	12	12	33	39	-6	39
15 Hayes & Yeading	33	10	9	14	47	59	-12	39
16 Salisbury City (-10)	31	14	4	13	35	41	-6	36
17 Ebbsfleet United	**35**	**10**	**6**	**19**	**36**	**58**	**-22**	**36**
18 Cambridge United	31	8	11	12	45	42	+3	35
19 Gateshead (-1)	33	9	5	19	38	53	-15	31
20 Eastbourne Borough	32	6	12	14	29	49	-20	30
21 Barrow	28	6	10	12	29	45	-16	28
22 Forest Green Rovers	32	6	9	17	31	58	-27	27
23 Grays Athletic	31	3	8	20	27	67	-40	17
24 Chester City (-25)	28	5	7	16	23	42	-19	-3

BLUE SQUARE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Newport County	30	22	7	1	66	15	+51	73
2 Chelmsford City	31	15	7	9	41	35	+6	52
3 Braintree Town	29	13	12	4	40	29	+11	51
4 Staines Town	30	13	11	6	46	30	+16	50
5 Thurrock	29	14	8	7	53	38	+15	50
6 Bath City	30	13	10	7	49	35	+14	49
7 Dover Athletic	**30**	**14**	**7**	**9**	**49**	**38**	**+11**	**49**
8 Eastleigh	30	13	7	10	57	45	+12	46
9 Woking	29	13	6	10	34	32	+2	45
10 Welling United	**30**	**12**	**8**	**10**	**44**	**37**	**+7**	**44**
11 Havant & Waterlooville	29	11	11	7	36	34	+2	44
12 Bromley	**31**	**12**	**7**	**12**	**45**	**45**	**0**	**43**
13 Basingstoke Town	31	12	6	13	40	45	-5	42
14 St Albans City	31	12	6	13	36	42	-6	42
15 Bishop's Stortford	32	10	7	15	38	47	-9	37
16 Dorchester Town	31	9	8	14	38	51	-13	35
17 Maidenhead United	28	8	9	11	34	34	0	33
18 Hampton & Richmond	27	7	8	12	33	46	-13	29
19 Worcester City	30	6	7	17	35	47	-12	25
20 Lewes	29	4	11	14	30	47	-17	23
21 Weston-super-Mare	31	4	7	20	35	60	-25	19
22 Weymouth	30	4	6	20	24	71	-47	18

RYMAN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Dartford	**25**	**18**	**4**	**3**	**66**	**24**	**+42**	**58**
2 Kingstonian	28	15	3	10	50	46	+4	48
3 Boreham Wood	28	14	4	10	40	30	+10	46
4 Hastings United	28	13	6	9	46	38	+8	45
5 Sutton United	26	12	5	9	43	30	+13	41
6 Horsham	26	12	5	9	47	39	+8	41
7 Tooting & Mitcham	28	11	8	9	40	37	+3	41
8 Ashford Town (Middlesex)	29	10	10	9	53	56	-3	40
9 AFC Hornchurch	27	10	9	8	33	30	+3	39
10 Canvey Island	27	11	6	10	43	41	+2	39
11 Wealdstone	24	10	9	5	41	40	+1	39
12 Harrow Borough	27	10	8	9	42	41	+1	38
13 Cray Wanderers	**30**	**11**	**4**	**15**	**40**	**55**	**-15**	**37**
14 Aveley	27	10	5	12	52	48	+4	35
15 Maidstone United	**26**	**9**	**6**	**11**	**27**	**33**	**-6**	**33**
16 Tonbridge Angels	**27**	**9**	**5**	**13**	**45**	**55**	**-10**	**32**
17 Hendon	25	9	4	12	38	41	-3	31
18 Billericay Town	27	7	9	11	27	32	-5	30
19 Carshalton Athletic	26	7	8	11	37	45	-8	29
20 Margate	**27**	**6**	**7**	**14**	**34**	**52**	**-18**	**25**
21 Bognor Regis Town	26	5	9	12	30	43	-13	24
22 Waltham Abbey	26	6	6	14	30	48	-18	24

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Folkestone Invicta	**27**	**19**	**5**	**3**	**37**	**16**	**+21**	**62**
2 Croydon Athletic	26	16	6	4	62	31	+31	54
3 Fleet Town	28	15	4	9	54	37	+17	49
4 Worthing	27	15	3	9	53	40	+13	48
5 Walton & Hersham	27	14	5	8	40	31	+9	47
6 Godalming Town (-3)	25	15	3	7	45	30	+15	45
7 Sittingbourne	**25**	**12**	**5**	**8**	**42**	**26**	**+16**	**41**
8 Burgess Hill Town	27	11	8	8	43	36	+7	41
9 Horsham YMCA	29	9	11	9	48	43	+5	38
10 Leatherhead	25	11	4	10	42	31	+11	37
11 Dulwich Hamlet	28	9	10	9	42	42	0	37
12 Ramsgate	**27**	**9**	**9**	**9**	**41**	**43**	**-2**	**36**
13 Merstham	28	10	6	12	46	56	-10	36
14 Chatham Town	**29**	**11**	**3**	**15**	**40**	**52**	**-12**	**36**
15 Whyteleafe	27	10	5	12	42	37	+5	35
16 Metropolitan Police	25	9	7	9	41	31	+10	34
17 Corinthian-Casuals	28	10	3	15	42	53	-11	33
18 Chipstead	28	7	6	15	31	45	-14	27
19 Walton Casuals	28	6	6	16	31	47	-16	24
20 Eastbourne Town	28	4	9	15	23	52	-29	21
21 Ashford Town	**25**	**4**	**8**	**13**	**29**	**61**	**-32**	**20**
22 Whitstable Town	**25**	**6**	**2**	**17**	**19**	**53**	**-34**	**20**

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Faversham Town	20	16	2	2	55	17	38	50
2 Herne Bay	17	13	1	3	42	23	19	40
3 Hythe Town	15	9	4	2	39	12	27	31
4 Beckenham Town	19	9	4	6	34	22	12	31
5 Erith & Belvedere	20	9	4	7	37	40	-3	31
6 Erith Town	18	8	4	6	35	29	6	28
7 Greenwich Borough	18	7	5	6	32	29	3	26
8 Sevenoaks Town	16	7	4	5	33	30	3	25
9 Sporting Bengal Utd	22	7	4	11	39	60	-21	25
10 Deal Town	15	6	4	5	24	27	-3	22
11 Tunbridge Wells	19	5	7	7	31	37	-6	22
12 Holmesdale	17	5	2	10	28	32	-4	17
13 Norton Sports	14	5	1	8	16	21	-5	16
14 Fisher	20	3	4	13	25	50	-25	13
15 Corinthian	19	3	3	13	21	43	-22	12
16 Lordswood	17	1	7	9	17	37	-20	10

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

RETURN: Cranbrook players have recovered from injury and sickness bug

Full-strength squad big boost for Cranes

Old Olavians RFC v Cranbrook RFC

KICK-OFF 2.30PM AT ST OLAVE'S SCHOOL

CRANBROOK will be back to full strength for this afternoon's Kent 1 trip to Old Olavians, after late withdrawals forced them to field a makeshift second row for their 32-10 win at Beccehamians last week.

"We lost both our second rows on the morning of the game, one to a stomach illness, but they should both be back today," director of rugby Mike Catt said.

The strength of the opposition is more of a concern. Olavians pulled out of last week's game with Gillingham Anchorians, apparently unable to raise a side.

If the game is postponed, the Cranes will instead play Brockleaians in the Kent Vase at the Tomlin Ground.

"We're still waiting to hear from them," Catt said earlier in the week. "They're one of those sides who can usually get a team together for a home game, but don't travel well.

"I think they're the kind of team that plays to have a good time rather than to win the league, but some weeks they're a really good side, you just don't know what you're going to get."

Last week's upheaval had little affect on the scoreline, with the Cranes running out 32-10 winners against a struggling Beccehamians side.

"We played quite well especially because we had to shuffle the pack a bit, but the backs did very, very well with four or five really good tries," Catt said.

The win means Cranbrook stay second in Kent 1, four points behind leaders Dartfordians, having played a game more.

RUGBY LEAGUE TABLES

LONDON 1 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Gravesend	20	18	0	2	501	211	290	36
2 Dover	19	15	1	3	440	233	207	31
3 Cobham	20	14	0	6	426	286	140	28
4 Sidcup	19	12	1	6	427	303	124	25
5 Chichester	20	12	0	8	392	229	163	24
6 Old Colfeians	20	11	0	9	433	383	50	22
7 Wimbledon	20	11	0	9	335	353	-18	22
8 Beckenham	20	9	2	9	383	363	20	20
9 Chobham	20	9	1	10	426	381	45	19
10 Thanet Wanderers	19	9	1	9	314	345	-31	19
11 Tunbridge Wells	**19**	**8**	**0**	**11**	**293**	**390**	**-97**	**16**
12 Old Elthamians	19	5	0	14	290	377	-87	10
13 Maidstone	21	1	0	20	200	745	-545	2
14 Aylesford Bulls	20	1	0	19	230	491	-261	0

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Tonbridge Juddian	**16**	**16**	**0**	**0**	**815**	**118**	**697**	**32**
2 Hove	16	13	1	2	450	197	253	27
3 Warlingham	16	11	1	4	487	188	299	23
4 Sevenoaks	**16**	**11**	**0**	**5**	**446**	**358**	**88**	**22**
5 Lewes	16	9	1	6	287	323	-36	19
6 Old Reigatian	17	8	1	8	376	383	-7	17
7 KCS Old Boys	16	6	1	9	303	485	-182	13
8 Purley John Fisher	17	6	0	11	314	408	-94	12
9 Deal & Betteshanger	17	6	0	11	265	378	-113	12
10 Old Dunstonians	16	5	0	11	233	524	-291	10
11 Bromley	17	4	1	12	302	508	-206	9
12 Eastbourne	16	0	0	16	128	536	-408	0

KENT 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Dartfordians	16	15	0	1	454	130	324	30
2 Cranbrook	**17**	**13**	**0**	**4**	**389**	**209**	**180**	**26**
3 Guys' Hospital	16	11	0	5	426	272	154	22
4 Sittingbourne	15	9	1	5	350	246	104	19
5 Vigo	17	9	1	7	285	251	34	19
6 Gillingham Anchs	16	9	0	7	277	241	36	18
7 Old Olavians	16	6	1	9	237	317	-80	13
8 Ashford	16	5	1	10	234	302	-68	11
9 Sheppey	16	5	0	11	259	364	-105	10
10 Beccehamian	14	4	1	9	200	352	-152	9
11 Erith	16	4	1	11	139	408	-269	7
12 HSBC	17	3	0	14	227	385	-158	6

Race organisers fear flooding could alter half-marathon route

By FRED ATKINS

THE route for the Tunbridge Wells half-marathon would be difficult enough at the best of times, but a dismal weather forecast means flooding is possible and a contingency plan is in place should a notoriously prone part of the course end up under water.

Earlier this week a stretch of the B2176 between Bidborough and Penshurst was almost completely submerged and there are fears that if heavy rain continues the course might be impassable in low-lying areas.

Race director Sarah Russell said: "At the moment everything is okay, but the water can come up quite quickly and then go 24 hours later.

"We'll make a decision today, or on Sunday morning but if it isn't passable there'll be a diversion up Poundsbridge Lane and we'll run a 10-mile race."

Diversion

With or without the diversion, the course will be a testing one and too hilly to offer seasoned athletes a chance of setting a personal best.

Starting from the Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre at around 110 metres above sea level, the opening mile along the A26 is almost flat, but the second sees a steady climb of about 35 metres via Birchwood Avenue and Bounds Oak Way (the highest point on the circuit at 145 metres) up to Bidborough Ridge.

This section offers a spectacular view to the north and is relatively kind, descending gently to the four-mile point before plunging down towards the Medway at Penshurst.

GLOOMY FORECAST: Rain could force a change of route for runners in tomorrow's Tunbridge Wells half-marathon

There's a sharp left-hander at Penshurst Place and another left turn onto the B2188 towards Smart's Hill.

That isn't too bad, but the toughest part of the course is between seven and eight miles, with a height gain of around 100 metres through the village of Forcombe to the A264.

At the 10-mile mark there's a detour round Newlands and Dorndean Road but the final three miles are all on flattish main roads.

The athletes may feel they are running through treacle in the final mile up St John's Road although in reality, however slowly they're going it'll be quicker, and a lot less painful than trying to do this section in a car.

• *For a full preview and who to look out for at this year's Tunbridge Wells half-marathon, pick up a copy of tomorrow's newspaper.*

Wells to play it clever in bid to beat Wanderers and conditions

Thanet Wanderers RFC v Tunbridge Wells RFC

KICK-OFF 2.30PM AT ST PETER'S RECREATION GROUND

TACTICAL nous is the key for Tunbridge Wells this afternoon if they are to overcome a powerful Thanet Wanderers pack and treacherous playing conditions.

Last week's 31-10 drubbing at Sidcup owed more to Wells' naivety than to anything the hosts created, much to the frustration of Jim Scully, who again leads the side in the absence of head coach Paul Hathaway.

This week's rain means opportunities for free-flowing rugby will be restricted once again and Wells must be wise to the conditions if they are to leave east Kent with a result.

Ben Acklam and David Coombes return to the side for today's game but Matt Murtagh (thigh) and Mark Wilson (elbow) are both missing through injury.

Picture: BRUCE ELLIOTT

WRONG TACTICS: Sitiveni Turagaiviu runs through the sand at Sidcup

Wells chairman Roger Clarke watched his side struggle on Sidcup's sand-covered playing surface seven days ago, but said Thanet's muddy pitch would be no excuse for another defeat today.

"We'll have to work hard there," he said. "Thanet don't have an electric set of backs but they have a workmanlike front five and we have got to make sure we get plenty of quick ball. We always create openings but the players have got to listen to the coach rather than just do what comes naturally.

"Tactically, we played the wrong game last week. It was too soft underfoot in the second-half to play our normal game and Jim asked the players to put the ball in the corners, to turn Sidcup.

"However, we continued playing cavalier, barbarian rugby, flinging the ball about in our own 22. We put ourselves under pressure and we've played this way for so long, you wonder whether the players can revert back when they need to."

Thanet have already beaten Wells twice this season, most recently in the Kent Cup and Wells will hope the hosts have one eye on tomorrow's third-round trip to league leaders Gravesend.

By GLENN PEARSON

Angels boss looking up after mini-revival

Change of fortune gives Warrilow cause for optimism

Tonbridge Angels v Kingstonian

KICK-OFF 3PM AT LONGMEAD STADIUM

TWO wins in three games has reignited Tonbridge Angels' floundering season and given boss Tommy Warrilow cause to look up the Ryman Premier table rather than down.

Last weekend's 2-1 win at Carshalton, with goals from Jerahl Hughes and Paul Booth, heralded three points for the Angels from a game that for those that went, won't live long in the memory.

What it may represent, however, is a change in fortunes for Warrilow's luckless Angels, who despite their poor results in the last couple of months, are surprisingly just nine points from the play-offs.

Tonbridge come up against a Kingstonian side this afternoon in good form themselves and in need of victory to keep in touch with Darford at the top of the division.

One thing almost guaranteed is goals. The Angels have gone 11 league and cup games without keeping a clean sheet, but have also scored in each of those fixtures.

Warrilow accepts the goals conceded column could do with improving but felt his defence put in a good display last time out.

"We defended well at Carshalton but what I don't want us to do is get back into the habit of conceding sloppy goals again because looking back at the game against Dartford, all four of them were like that," he said.

"What I want today is a better performance than was shown at Carshalton and we need to be a bit more clinical in front of goal."

New signing Meshach Nugent is expected to shake off a head injury picked up in the win at Carshalton to make his home debut, while fellow new boy Adam Burchell is likely to start having been a substitute.

Warrilow is delighted to have secured the pair, although Burchell is on a short-term loan that ends on March 8.

He said: "Thankfully for us Shack [Nugent] kept to his word and signed for us because there were four other sides interested in him, including one that were throwing loads of money about, which was quite refreshing really.

"Adam is with us for four more games so we will give him a bit of football and he showed glimpses of what he can do when he came on at the weekend."

Tonbridge will be without winger Kirk Watts again today as he serves the final game of a suspension and defender Sonny Miles who has been away and isn't expected to return in time for the game.

Pictures: DAVE COULDRIDGE

ON TARGET: (l-r) Meschach Nugent and last week's goalscorer Jerahl Hughes put Tonbridge Angels' season back on track

Jones predicts physical encounter against Norton

Sevenoaks Town v Norton Sports

KICK-OFF 3PM AT GREATNESS PARK

FAMILIAR foes await Sevenoaks Town at Greatness Park this afternoon, as they take on Norton Sports in the Kent League Premier Division.

Having beaten Norton over two legs in the Premier Division Cup earlier this season, Town manager Simon Jones is predicting a difficult afternoon.

"They're always going to be strong and very physical," he said. "They've been together for a number of years, so they're a tight, compact unit who will be very tough to beat, though I think they've suffered more than anyone this year with the weather."

Victory could push Town, sitting in eighth, as high as sixth if other results go their way, after they took a point from Erith & Belvedere on Tuesday night, with a 1-1 draw.

Town failed to perform in the first period and fell a goal behind when Aiden Pursglove scored on the half hour.

Yet five minutes after the restart they were spared when Pursglove wasted a far easier chance, hitting the post and allowing Charlie Burgess to clear.

"I thought the gods were smiling on us at that point," Jones admitted. "I couldn't believe our luck, though why he took another touch after hitting the post I'll never know."

Town made the most of the let off and on 52 minutes Chris Walker equalised from Badar Mohammed's cross.

If anything Town looked stronger in the closing stages, but Jones felt a draw was a fair result.

He said: "We were shocking in the first-half and you can't expect to win if you only put in 50 per cent of the effort.

"That said, in the second-half we were a lot better and I think if we'd had a few more minutes we might have won."

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

PHYSICAL: Sevenoaks face tough match at home to Norton Sports

Larkin to decide whether to recall top scorer Lord

Tunbridge Wells v Corinthian

KICK-OFF 3PM AT CULVERDEN STADIUM

LOOKING for only their second league win in eight outings, Tunbridge Wells entertain Corinthian today looking to build on last Saturday's performance at Beckenham Town.

Wells were eventually edged out 2-1 in difficult conditions but manager Martin Larkin was quick to take the positives from what was otherwise a pleasing afternoon.

Jon Pilbeam cancelled out Anthony Weir's opener to send the sides in level at the break and Wells had their opportunities to grab a winner in the second-half, before Danny Gorman popped up to secure victory for the hosts.

While Wells' recent form is a concern for Larkin, he insists his side are close to turning the corner and said today's game is one they must take advantage of.

He said: "We played really well at Beckenham, probably the best we've played all year. We created plenty of chances, we had three cleared off the line and their goalkeeper made some great saves. They just had a little bit extra quality and although they only had one shot in the second-half, it flew in.

"However, we are not a reserve team or an under-18 team, we're a first-team and it's all about winning. We need a win because we haven't won for a while. We went to Corinthian unbeaten in nine but they taught us a lesson. This is an important time for us because we've got a lot of games coming up against the teams around us."

Larkin handed a Wells debut to Charlie Sharman last Saturday, having signed the winger on dual-registration terms from Croydon Athletic.

Sharman is set to feature again today, alongside Sam Phillips and Steve Ashmore, who both return from suspension. Larkin must decide whether to recall top scorer Mike Lord to the starting line-up after pairing Pilbeam with Benji Agana at Beckenham.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

FACING THE CHOP: Jon Pilbeam could be left out despite scoring last week

STARTING LINE: A field of 2,500 will run the half-marathon on Sunday

Half-marathon breathtaking both physically and visually

IT MAY not be the toughest course on the circuit, but the route for the Tunbridge Wells half-marathon provides a stiff challenge for runners, while showcasing some of Kent's most impressive countryside.

The word breathtaking isn't usually meant literally, but the undulating 13.2-mile loop around Penshurst, Bidborough and Langton Green will leave many of the 2,500 entrants gasping as they struggle to cope with several nasty gradients.

Starting on the A26, St John's Road, opposite St John's Park, the runners will initially head north on the London Road through Southborough, before taking minor roads to Bidborough Ridge and down Rogues Hill into Penshurst.

After crossing the Medway and passing Penshurst Place, arguably the toughest section awaits on the B2188 through Fordcombe, around the halfway mark.

Once that's been tackled the route is relatively kind, a straightforward run along the A264 back into the town, with a small incline around the Langton Green area at the ten-mile point.

The final three miles sees the field stick exclusively to main roads, with a two-mile eastbound section along Langton Road before the final sprint up the A26 to the finish line, a few hundred yards from the start.

• *See inside for the full story.*

BRAGGING RIGHTS UP FOR GRABS IN DERBY

Oaks looking to spring a shock and end TJs' unbeaten run

By **FRED ATKINS**

Tonbridge Juddians RFC v Sevenoaks RFC

KICK-OFF 2.30PM AT THE SLADE

WITH every passing week Tonbridge Juddians' passage to the London 2 South East title seems increasingly certain, though today's derby with Sevenoaks is likely to be the toughest of their remaining fixtures.

TJs coach Peter Dankert says his side, who are five points clear at the top of the division, are relishing the chance to take on their local rivals.

"Our players have been looking forward to it for many weeks, even though some of them have come into Tonbridge Juddians from elsewhere. They're well aware that it's a big, meaningful game," he said.

"I know their coach [James Leverington] quite well from when I used to pit my wares against him at Barking and they're a very good bunch of local players."

Scalp

League leaders TJs are 10 points clear of today's visitors and victory for the home side today would extinguish Sevenoaks' lingering hopes of the title.

Sevenoaks were second when the teams were due to play in January, only for the weather to intervene. With his side now fourth in the table, Oaks chairman Lee Adamson admitted that even finishing runners-up would be a tall order.

"It would be a fantastic scalp, but since we've lost a couple of games it's less important than it might have been when we thought we had a chance of making the play-offs," he said.

"But it's important because we're playing against the team that hasn't been beaten in two seasons and it's the game everyone wants to win.

"It's a good, healthy, friendly rivalry because they're just down the road. We've played for the Gordon Mann Trophy for as long as I've been with the club. We invite their officials to lunch and vice versa. There's always banter, but never hostility."

Picture: DUNCAN MACKIE

BATTLE ROYALE: Tonbridge Juddians (stripes) and Sevenoaks go head-to-head today

Both sides recorded heavy wins last week. TJs steamrollered Bromley 74-5, while Sevenoaks returned to form with a 48-7 league win over Deal & Betteshanger on Saturday, followed by an 84-0 thrashing of Charlton Park in the Kent Cup 24 hours later.

Dankert believes Sevenoaks' "exceptional" kicker, fly-half Matt Bates, is the visitors' key weapon, and says his team would rather be tested than have another easy game.

"Our players thrive on being challenged," he said. "For nearly two seasons now we've been unbeaten but we've sometimes gone into games expecting to win and when we do that, we play badly.

"Bromley started very well and it took us 16 minutes to get on the scoreboard, but it was kind of like their cup final. Especially at home, teams try to prove a point against us and are very competitive for 10-20 minutes.

"We know there are going to be occasions when things go wrong, so we have got to make sure we play well for the majority of the game."

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